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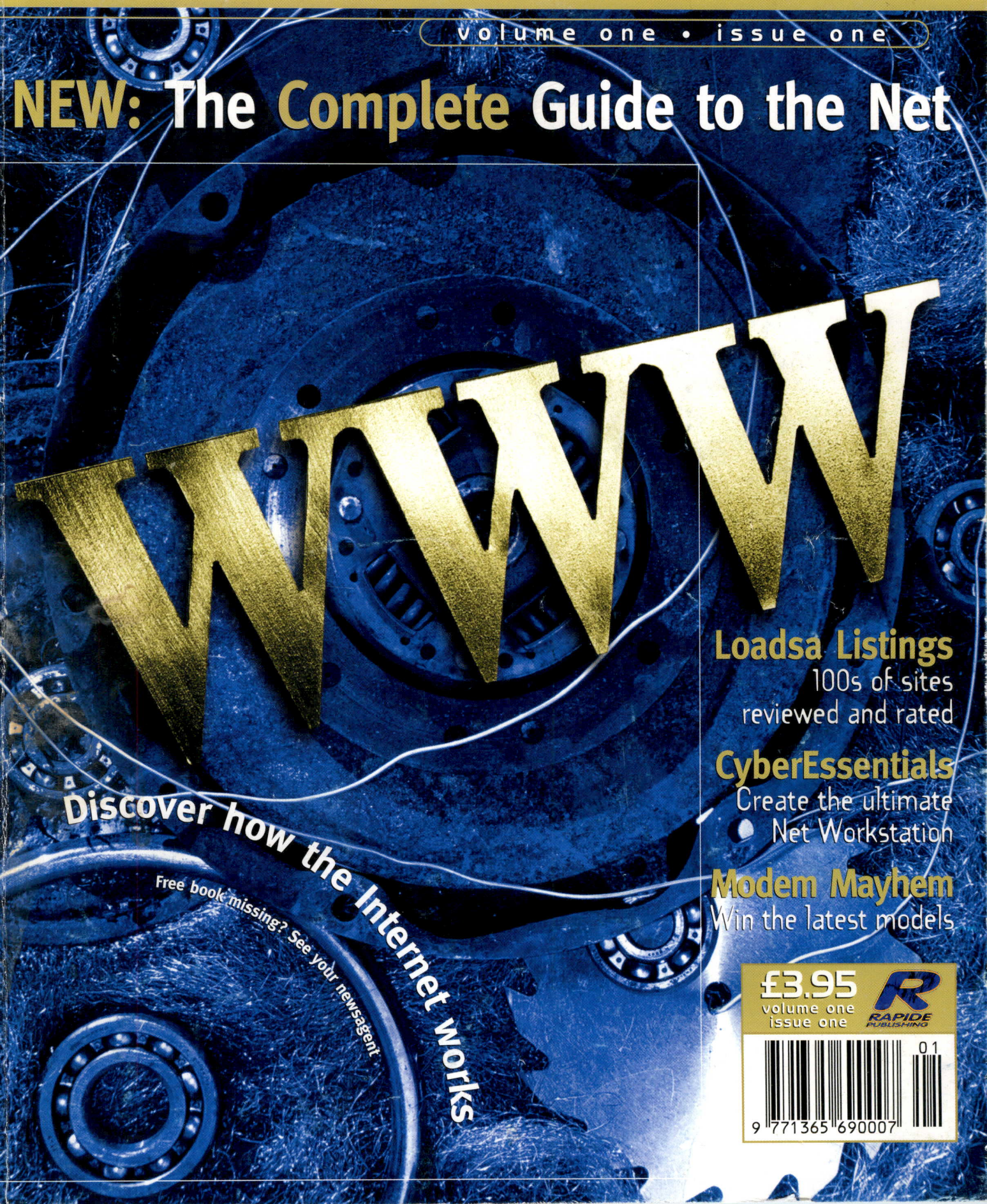
TOTAL internet

volume one • issue one

NEW: The Complete Guide to the Net



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Modem Mayhem
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Discover how the Internet works

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Welcome to the Total Internet Experience

Welcome to the very first issue of a new Internet magazine, which promises a fresh approach to bringing the Net to its readers. TOTAL INTERNET genuinely caters for the real Net user's needs, providing a powerful mix of tutorials, features and guides to making the best use of the vast resource at your fingertips.

We've assembled a dedicated team of Net enthusiasts to bring you in-depth and authoritative information, covering every use of the Internet. Just like you, our readers, we want to use the Net, in all its guises, to the full and explore the huge potential the medium offers. Experienced or inexperienced, business or pleasure – whatever your requirements, TOTAL INTERNET is the perfect online companion.

As TOTAL INTERNET is a new magazine in an already congested market, you're probably asking what is so unique about this publication. What does TOTAL INTERNET have to offer that sets it apart from the herd? Well, to maintain the dubious analogy, we've gone to graze in pastures new. As a result you're holding a magazine packed with unique features to fire your imagination.

For starters, check out the covermounted book, *Web Weaver*. Written by a top Web design professional this book is a detailed guide to Web authoring. It can be employed by both inexperienced users and expert designers alike to further the look, shape and style of their Web pages. No other magazine has ever packed so much information into one issue and it doesn't stop there. From issue two *Web Weaver* will be moving inside the pages of TOTAL INTERNET to create a magazine within a magazine. To find out more about this exciting section read Sean Clark's introduction on page 12.

Combine this with the biggest listings section in any monthly magazine, with 100s of sites reviewed and rated by experts in their fields; a special feature called CyberEssentials, providing ideas for creating the ultimate Internet workstation (you'll be surprised by some of the items included); and the chance to win a host of competition prizes, for the ultimate Internet read.

Enjoy

Chris Marke

Chris Marke

TOTAL internet Contents

News
6 From business to pleasure it's all covered in the news section once the Total Internet virtual vidiprinter clicks into life.

Web Weaver
12 As this is our launch issue we've provided a book with the magazine – well, we're nice like that! However, from next issue this section comes home. Find out more here.

Guide Section
34 Britain's biggest monthly Net listings section is launched (cue fanfare). It's got everything from caped crusaders to space invaders, so what are you waiting for?

The Essential Directory
98 The final section of our guide and worthy of its own comment. This is the best of the best Web sites, all for your perusal.

Review Section
101 Want to get a new modem? Need the latest Internet book? Well, don't be hasty, see what our experts have to say first.

CyberEssentials
108 When you're half way through a marathon Internet session, you often need inspiration. We provide ideas for creating the perfect Internet environment.

Sean Clark Column
112 Our resident consultant editor has always had a lot to say about the Net and he heralds the launch of the magazine with some words of warning...

On the Road
116 Take one band, give them an Internet connection and Rock 'N' Roll will never be the same again. Find out more inside...

Gareth Lancaster Column
119 Gareth's been writing about the Internet for years, but he has never had a chance to give the world his true feelings. Well, now he can!

CyberCafé Guide
120 We've been travelling the West Country in search of Cybercafés and found a couple of intriguing stopping off points in Taunton and Bristol.

Beginner's Guide to Usenet
122 In the first of our series for newbies, old Internet hand Gary Joyce takes you through the trials and tribulations of your first steps on Usenet.

Service Providers
126 Looking for an Internet Service Provider or thinking of changing your existing one? Cast your eye over our guide to ISPs.

Discover how the Net Works

UK Infrastructure

16 What makes the Internet tick? We take an in-depth look at how the Net has progressed, what infrastructure problems have resulted and how you could solve them.

Net Hardware

22 In the quest to create the perfect workstation the hardware on offer to Internet users has escalated dramatically. We sort the wheat from the chaff and analyse the pros and cons of using Macs in comparison to PCs.

Net Software

16 The final section of our special report focuses on the Internet software scene. We pass judgement over the plethora of software currently available.

WIN!

See pages 106 and 111 for your chance to win 33.6 modems and a host of Internet-related prizes.

News

As the TOTAL INTERNET virtual vidi-printer clicks into life, a host of top news stories arrive from the world of Net business and entertainment. Read all about BT's Net games, law on the Net, cracking Internet porn and much more...

BT Launch Online Gaming Service

Welcome to
Wireplay
The games network from BT
EF2000: Wireplay Edition
For the lowdown on the showdown, how to get EF2000: Wireplay Edit running, play the game and fix any problems click here
Gameplay: fast 'n furious
All about Wireplay
Wireplay News

BT have entered the online gaming battle.

British Telecom are the latest company to enter the online gaming battle with Wireplay, the UK's first dial-up gaming network service. It gives gamers, from every corner of the globe, the chance to compete against each other in multi-player games such as *Duke Nukem 3D*, *Descent 2* and *Warcraft 2*. Gremlin's *Euro 96* was the first game to be designed for Wireplay, with was offered in a limited form to the public back in June. Since then, the game's tournament and league system has brought together footy gamers from all over the country in multi-player sessions of the game.

With the cost being an affordable 2.5p per minute (that's £1.25 per hour) for evenings and weekends, it's set to attract more and more people every week. Another major benefit is that there are no set-up, subscription or software fees, which often deter potential customers. BT's Head of Games, Colin Duffy commented on Wireplay:

"Multi-player gaming has been in fashion ever since the chaps at id wowed us all with the deathmatch version of *Doom*, but until now the need for Local Area Network hardware has ensured that network gaming has remained very much a closed shop to the general public."

No doubt Bob Hoskins will have his work cut out when BT launch the advertising campaign... "It's good to play games". But until then, you can find out more about the service by visiting the Wipeplay home page at **http://www.wireplay.com.**

The first game designed for Wireplay.

The Hands On Cafés

One hundred new Internet cafés are set for launch over the next year with selected areas open for business in early '97. The series of Hands On cafés will give budding Net users experience with all angles of the Internet including the Web, business programs and popular games. Hands on shops will stock everything from tea and biscuits to modems, software and accessories, enabling visitors to get connected for themselves. The first doors were opened in South Kensington in October with more opening in Manchester, Newcastle, Leeds and Birmingham. Watch out for the Hands On experience in your neck of the woods.

Faster Modems for '97

We may all be happy due to the arrival of latest 33.6 modems recently, but it seems that they're not enough and we could expect faster 56Kpbs models to hit the streets in late '97. The Comdex trade show which will be held this coming autumn in Las Vegas is rumoured to be the place to see the new chip which is double the speed of the current V.34 models.
For a run down on some of the latest 33.6 models on the market and our great competition, turn to page 104.

Flying via the Web

A dramatic Web site update could change the way that passengers book their air flights.

For the past year, Air UK's home page located at **http://www.airuk.co.uk** has been generating more than 50,000 hits each week with its flight schedules, fares and news regarding new routes and services. Currently, bookings will be only open to residents in the UK and for flights from London Stansted. Further enhancements in January however, will mean that the service will include all Air UK flights which will be great news for everyone. After the customer books their tickets, using their credit card, they will then be sent to them by the Norwich Reservations Unit or can be collected from the ticket desk of the departing airport.

Use your air miles to purchase tickets over the Net.

£250 Worth of CDs and Videos to Give Away!

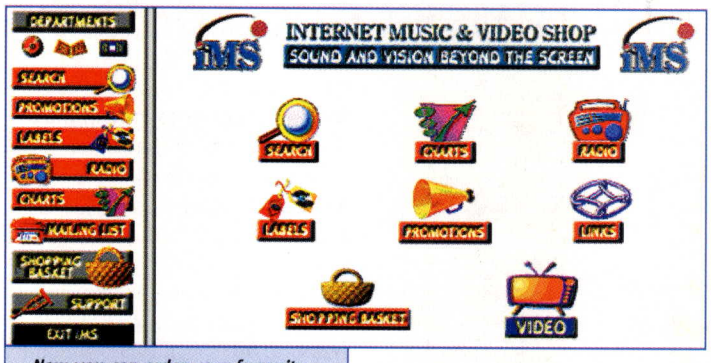
How do you fancy going to the Internet Music Shop site and choosing £50 worth of CDs or Videos for yourself? If you do then read on about this very special, though different, competition...

We've teamed up with iMS to give five winners £50 to spend on CDs and Videos each. First of all, go to **http://www.musicshop.co.uk** and pick all the CDs and Videos you want, making sure that they all come to no more than £50. Then use the specially created TOTAL INTERNET link to take you to a page created for you and the rest of the magazine's readers. Enter the username **total** and the password **rapide** and you'll then be presented with the relevant forms and a question for you to email to us. Couldn't be easier and it's only open to TOTAL INTERNET readers.

The closing date for the competition is 17/1/ 96, normal rules apply.

The Music Shop
You've Been Waiting For!

Just when you thought that buying CDs and videos was a doddle, a newer and more convenient system comes into effect. Forget any high street store, hook up to the Web, go to **http://www.musicshop.co.uk** and all the works practically done for you.



Now you can order your favourite music over the Net.

The Internet Music Shop is the first British independent music store on the Web and is open all day, every day with 45,000 CDs to choose from. It also stores 23,000 videos in its catalogue too. A great feature is the virtual shopping basket. Simply wander around the many pages, clicking on CD and video links which will then fill your basket on your way around. It can be viewed at any time but when you've finished your spree there's no check-out queues, just use another link to calculate the total and then buy it all via the site using your major credit card. All the very latest CDs and videos can be found here, plus there's updated chart listings to keep you posted with what's hot and what's not. Items are competitively priced (including VAT and shipping) and take just a couple of days to reach your home. The very latest charts are also listed with links to ordering them. So whether it's *BoyZone*, *Oasis* or *Barry White* you should find what you're looking for.

Net Site Brings Together Solicitors

A new service named Legal-Net aims to cut down the costs of solicitors transferring data.

It was set up by Bournemouth Internet, and will save around 90% of money spent on snail mail, faxes and courier deliveries. Documentation such as draft contracts will be transferred via email with each participating company represented on a special Legal-Net home page. Around 50 solicitors firms are said to be getting connected in the first quarter of 1997 and Bournemouth Internet are hoping to attract more qualifying companies with low cost subscription fees. Bournemouth Internet's site can be found at http://www.bournemouth-net.co.uk.

A Spot of Sport

A new daily online sports magazine has just been thrust onto the superhighway, aiming to capture the attention of all you UK surfers. Every day, onlookers to The Sportspot will be invited to use various links, taking them off to all kinds of sport related topics. Visitors are able to view a collection of current and past sporting photos, with other areas offering news, sporting facts and one for the punters, a tip of the day. Paul Rees, Executive Producer of The Sportspot commented on the site:

Updated daily for sports fanatics.

"We have produced a product which we feel matches the quick in-out nature of the medium. No text heavy pages or monster graphics. And it will change every day – seven days a week."

The Sportspot site can be found at:
http://www.sportspot.com.

Collect Faxes **Anywhere**

A new system could end the way that people collect their faxes. Especially in office environments, faxes can get lost and misplaced very easily, but JFAX Personal Telecom aims to bring that to a shuddering halt with their system.

By paying a monthly fee of roughly £10 and downloading the relevant software, subscribers are given their own personal fax number which is then in full operation. As soon as someone sends a fax to that number, it is crunched up and transferred to your email account. It arrives on your machine as an attachment and you then load it up using the software. You are then given the option to zoom in, alter the fax and then, if you like, print it out. The major benefit to all will be the price difference which is reduced dramatically. Whereas a fax machine costs roughly £299, you'll be able to impress friends and business associates with your personal fax for just £10 a month. And who knows the difference? For more information and to join up, visit the JFAX site at **http://www.jfax.co.uk.**

News

You're Nicked!

A Singapore man has become the first charged with downloading porn from the Internet. He was charged £30,000, in a ground breaking decision by the court. Who's next we wonder.

New Year for Net Freedom

As of the new year, Freedom Radio, Europe's first satellite radio station for gays will launch a brand new Web site.

Even though the main station only goes on air between 12 midnight and six am, the online visitors will be able to tune in 24 hours a day to catch up with the core features and music. The site will also be working along side CIX, the online Internet conferencing service, to provide a medium for talks on issues raised during the main broadcasts. With CIX, users are given the opportunity to start up their own conferences, be it on a gay topic or other issue that's in the limelight at the time. You are able to tune into the show on Astra channel 50 on audio channels 7.38 and 7.56.

World's First Sit Down IT Exhibition

Rather than travelling up to London and visiting a big computer show, people are being drawn into the world's very first virtual reality IT exhibition, saving money, time and the rings of mobile phones.

An online exhibition at your fingertips.

After obtaining Superscape's Viscape plug-in, PC users can travel around five main halls in Virtex'96, housing over 60 national and international IT companies. These include ICL, Computer Associates, Siemens-Nixdorf, Rank Xerox and Platinum Technology. Strangely enough, travelling around has been given a weird tint, Dr Who's Tardis is your link to navigating your way though all the information.

Already, 400 other companies are interested in Virtex '96 but some will have to be turned away as there's only room for 300 'stands'. They will however get a second chance to take part when Virtex '97 arrives. To enter the virtual show, set your browser to **http://www.virtex.co.uk** and be ready to enter that big blue police box. Exterminate... as they say.

Net Banking in Demand

A survey commissioned by Visa has shown that banking on the Internet is in demand. Conducted by Gallup, over 1,900 men and women were talked to earlier this year. Almost two out of three individuals said that they would prefer to pay bills and check their bank balances via their home computer. The survey showed that 56 per cent of UK residents thought that over the next 10 years, the pace of technological change will grow dramatically. Many also thought that in the 21st century, PCs will be primarily used to pay bills and manage bank accounts.

"Financial institutions that embrace the latest technologies and offer services such as remote banking and electronic commerce, will attract a growing segment of innovative customers - those who want to save themselves time and trouble in managing their financial affairs" said Fiona Wilkinson.

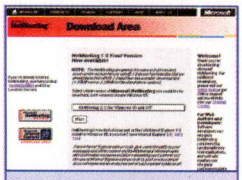
You can visit Visa's home page at **http://www.visa.com.**

Cheaper Service for Netcom Subscribers

A new billing system is out to put a smile on the faces of Netcom UK subscribers. New and existing users of the independent Internet service provider, **http://www.netcom.net.uk/**, will now be charged £14.95 per month inclusive of VAT, opposed to the £12.95 per month exclusive of VAT, adding up to £15.22. Netcom UK's sales and marketing director, David Furniss talked about the move:

"We value our customers very highly, and we are always trying to improve the level of service we offer to them. With a lower, VAT-inclusive price for unlimited access to the Internet, we aim to make their use of the Internet easier and more cost-effective. We are one of the very first Internet Service Providers to recognise our customers' needs for VAT inclusive pricing, and I am certain that we will set an example that our competitors will sooner or later have to follow."

NetMeeting 2.0 Made Available



Netmeeting is now available to download.

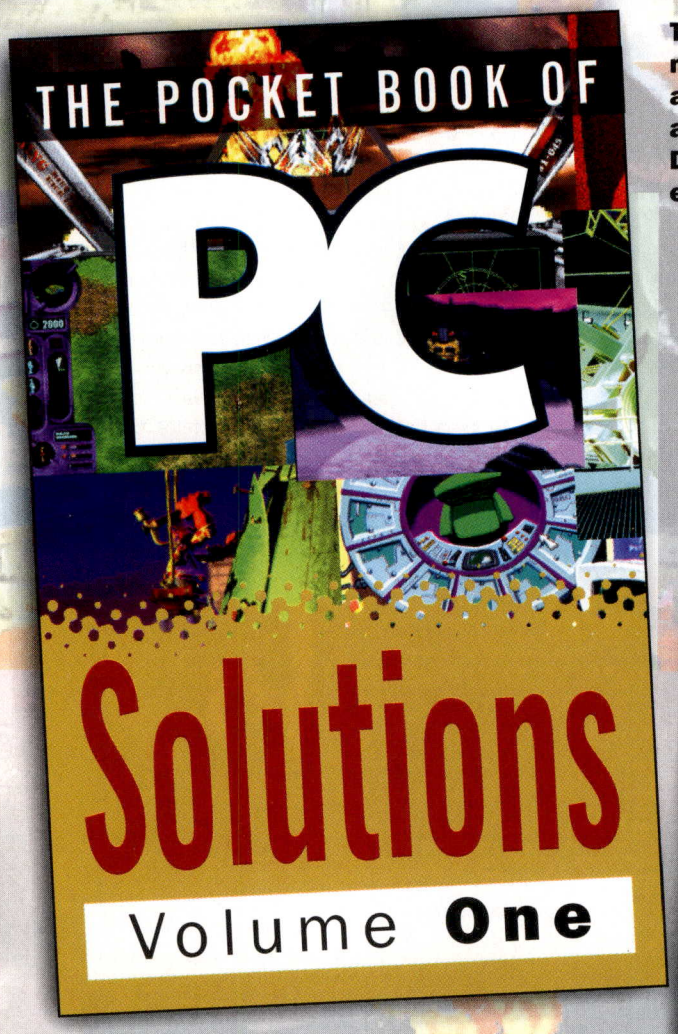
Microsoft recently made the first beta release of NetMeeting available free for download at their site. Version 2.0 of the Microsoft communication client, which allows more than two users to share data files over the Net now adds full support for the International Telecommunications Union (ITU). The cross-platform interoptability that the H.323 stand brings will change the way that people communicate over the Internet.

Those using Windows NT 4.0 will be able to communicate and collaborate with people using Windows 95's NetMeeting. Jeremy Gittins who's the Internet platforms and tools marketing manager talked about NetMeeting:

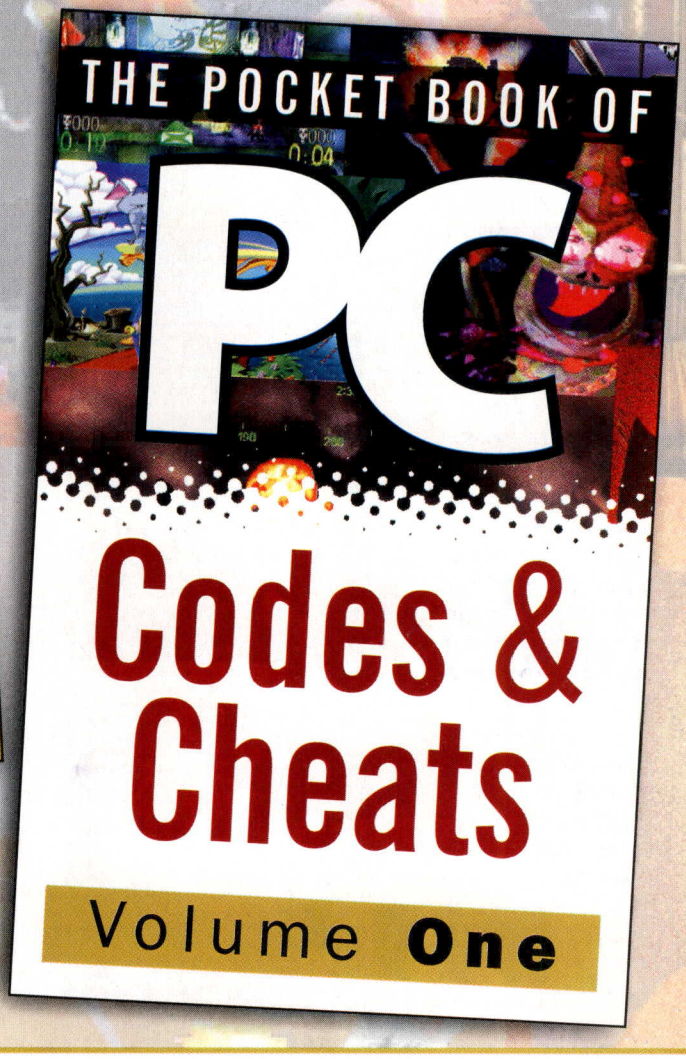
"The delivery of the first beta release of NetMeeting 2.0, with support for H.323 audio conferencing, which was jointly developed with Intel, marks a major milestone for the industry and for our customers. For the first time ever, customers will be able to use their PCs for real-time communication on the Internet as easily as they communicate using their telephones."

To download version 2.0 of NetMeeting, simply go to **http://www.microsoft.com/netmeeting/download/.**

Now Available!



The Pocket book of PC Solutions, from the makers of PC Power, offers many walk-throughs and solutions of some of the greatest games available on the PC! Including Fable, Discworld, Dark Forces and a host of others, it's the essential PC solutions guide!



Introducing the Pocketbook of PC Codes & Cheats – featuring dozens of codes, cheats and passwords for you favourite games. Including Quake, Duke Nukem, Doom and many, many more, it's one book that no PC game player should be without!

Yes! Please rush me a copy of The Pocketbook of PC Solutions and/or Codes & Cheats – the price of £8.99 per book includes P&P.
Please return this coupon together with your payment in a sealed envelope to the following address:
PC Solutions/Codes & Cheats Book Offer, Rapide Publishing, 14a Union Street, Newton Abbot TQ12 2JS.
All prices include postage and packing.

Name: .....

Address: .....

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Postcode: .....*Telephone:* .....

Signed: .....

Please allow up to 28 days for delivery. All orders received prior to December 6th should arrive in time for Christmas.

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Number of each required: PC Solutions ..... *PC Codes & Cheats* .....

Total amount £ .....

Signature:.....

Date: .....

I Love You Mom!

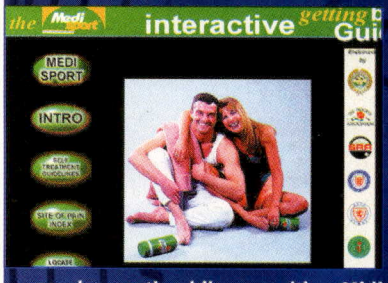
Mothers all around the world will be glad to hear that a Web site has just been launched for them. Moms Online includes a chat area for one on one discussions, plus a variety of other sections keeping females happy all around the world. Go to **http://www.momsonline.com/**

Christmas Carols Time

This site ensures that everyone is singing carols on Christmas Day with its long list of popular festive tunes. It's now being updated quite frequently on the run up to the big day. Find them at **http://www.osmond.net/chill/christmas/carols.htm.**

Snickers Footy Update

Footy fans will definitely get a kick out of a new football area within Snickers' site. It's already looking at the 1998 World Cup, with additional Euro '96 and European Champions League information. You can score at **http://www.euro.snickers.com/Megakick/soccerh.html.**



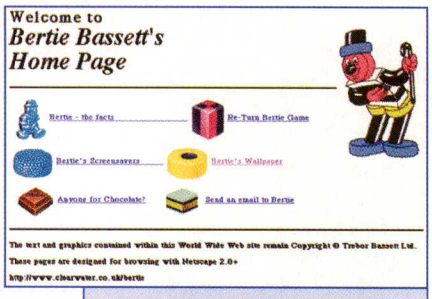
Guide to Getting Better

Sustained an injury whilst playing a sport? If so then it may be worth while consulting Midisport, **http://www.medisport.co.uk,** which aims to help cure your pain.

Shouting, Beer, Beer...

If you like beer and want to find out a little more about boozy beverages from every corner of the planet, pull one yourself by going to **http://www.interbeer.com/**

Bertie Bassett's Surfin'


Welcome to
Bertie Bassett's
Home Page
Bertie - the facts
Re-Turn Bertie Game
Bertie's Screensavers
Bertie's Wallpaper
Anyone for Chocolate?
Send an email to Bertie
The text and graphics contained within this World Wide Web site remain Copyright © Trebor Bassett Ltd.
Those pages are designed for browsing with Netscape 2.0+
http://www.clearwater.co.uk/bertie

Those with a sweet tooth should visit Bertie's new site.

Youngsters and big kids alike are now able to enjoy the taste of something extremely sweet – the Internet home of Liquorice's very own Bertie Basset, located at **http://www.clearwater.co.uk/bertie**

Newcomers to the sweet tasting site are not only given the chance to find out how the Liquorice Allsorts are made, but are also able to download a special screen saver and put a background picture on their PC's desktop. There's also a chance to take part in the thrills of tracking down Bertie as he is kidnapped. This means taking a trip around the world in search of the sticky character. A trip for two to the States is also up for grabs in a special competition. For the time being though, why not enter our competition below?

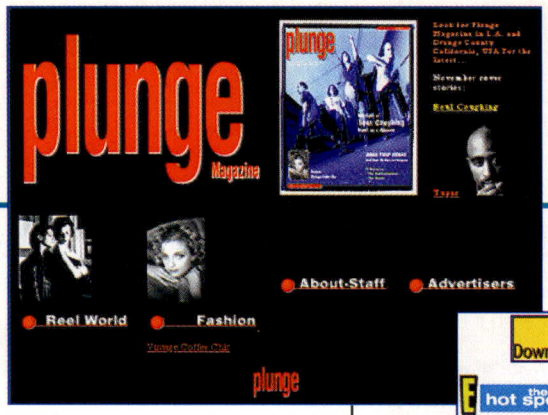
Win Mouse mats and Sweets

We've teamed up with Bertie Bassett to give away loads of prizes. The first 20 people drawn out of our hat (a very big one) will get a box of Bassets Liquorice Allsorts and a groovy mouse mat. 100 runners-up will receive a mouse mat. Solve this very simple question, the answer is at the site, and then pop it on a postcard or stuck down envelope and send it to Bertie Comp at the normal address. Alternatively, email **simonl@enterprise.net** with your answer and details. Entries should reach us before 6/1/97. Normal TOTAL INTERNET rules apply.

QUESTION:

Who founded Bassetts in 1842?

a) Henry Bogart
b) George Bassett
c) Willy Fogg



Net Events

1996
Online Information '96
Date: 3-5 December
Location: Olympia 2, Kensington, London
Tel: 0171 316 9742
350 companies will be showing off at Online Information '96. From software developers to Internet connectivity and service suppliers.

Network & Multiplayer Games Conference
Date: 6th December
Location: UUNET Pipex, Kings House, London EC2.
Tel: 0171 915 5055
A chance to have a look at all the latest online games such as Meridian 59 and Ultima 7 and find out what's happening in the future.

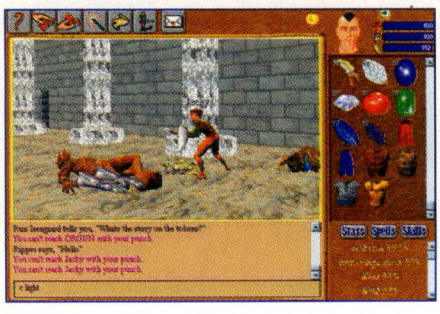
1997
Business Computer Systems Show '97
Date: 29th & 30th January
Location: G-Mex Centre, Manchester
Tel: 0161 725 8016
Three seminars will be taking place at this show with additional opportunities for visitors to experience various Internet applications.

UK Internet Show '97
Date: 15th-17th January
Location: National Hall, Olympia, London
Tel: 0171 388 2430
This is a massive Internet show to start off the new year. It will have a full round up of all the latest Internet hardware and software. TOTAL INTERNET will be there to bring a full report back for issue 3.

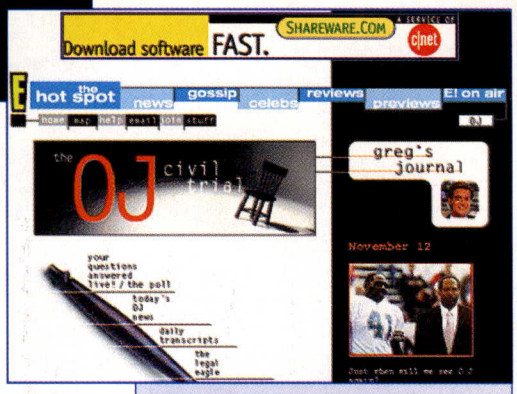
Downloadable Meridian 59

3DO, creators of the multiplayer Internet game *Meridian 59* have made the game available for download at a new FTP page. Instead of purchasing a boxed copy from the shelves, now users interested in using the game are able to click and wait as the game arrives on their PC's desktop. The cost is £14.95 with a monthly subscription of £6.50 for unlimited play. John Orcutt, senior vice president of the Internet Division, The 3DO company said:

"The online community has come to expect products and services to be available at their finger tips. *Meridian 59* download capability, combined with worldwide distribution at retail, significantly expands our reach into the marketplace and allows consumers throughout the world to take advantage of this exciting new genre of social computing".



Since the launch of the game in early November, players have logged onto the game more than 160,000 times with one player, over a seven day period, playing more than 125 hours. The game can be downloaded from **http://meridian.3do.com/ftp/.**



OJ's civil trial is one of the new sites to have come online.

Take a Plunge

A site that's worth checking out is called Plunge, it's basically an online entertainment magazine that's really stylish and up with the times. Go to http://www.plungemag.com/.

A West End Version of Star Wars?

No, and I don't know why this *Star Wars* site is called The Musical, but fans will be glad to hear that this new framed site is absolutely fantastic! Let the force take you all the way to http://www.nethosting.com/~simsense/StarWars/index.htm.

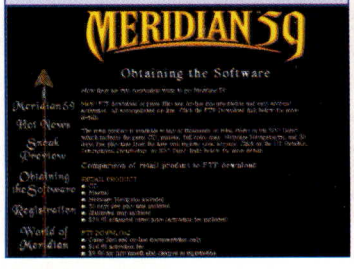
Forget the X Files

More humour on the Net, this time in the form of The Y Files. Apparently not even Mulder or Scully can solve this collection of cases. A barrel of laughs can be found at http://www.across.ac.uk/lrc/test/.

OJ Back in the Spotlight

Daily reports on OJ Simpson's civil trial are found at this page which is part of E! Online. Transcripts and live polls can be also be seen. Whether you're backing him or not, the page is at http://www.eonline.com/Oj/.

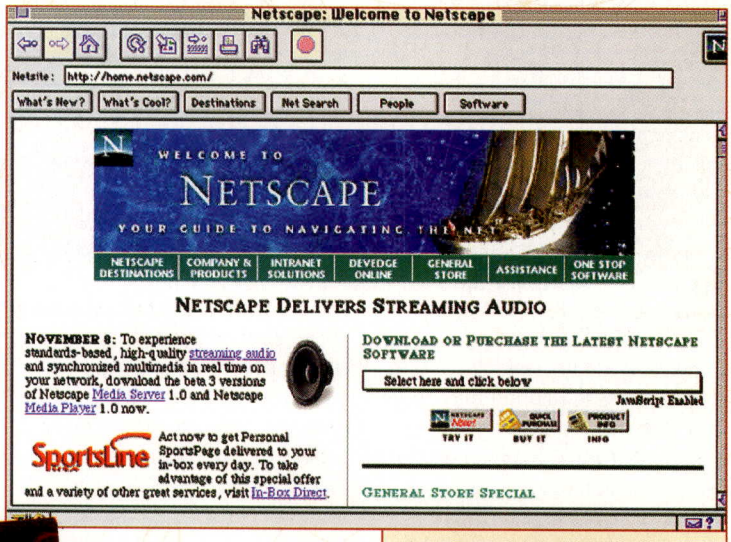
Online gaming continues to go from strength to strength.



If you have a news story for Total Internet send press releases to the normal address or email Simon Lovell at simonl@enterprise.net.

Web Weaver

A massively experienced Web designer in his own right, Sean Clark is rightly excited about the concept behind Web Weaver, as he explains in his introduction to one of TOTAL INTERNET's unique features...


Netscape: Welcome to Netscape
Netsite: http://home.netscape.com/
What's New? What's Cool? Destinations Net Search People Software
WELCOME TO
NETSCAPE
YOUR GUIDE TO NAVIGATING THE NET
NETSCAPE DESTINATIONS
COMPANY & PRODUCTS
INTRANET SOLUTIONS
DEVEDGE ONLINE
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NETSCAPE DELIVERS STREAMING AUDIO
NOVEMBER 8: To experience standards-based, high-quality streaming audio and synchronized multimedia in real time on your network, download the beta 3 versions of Netscape Media Server 1.0 and Netscape Media Player 1.0 now.
SportsLine
Act now to get Personal SportsPage delivered to your in-box every day. To take advantage of this special offer and a variety of other great services, visit In-Box Direct.
DOWNLOAD OR PURCHASE THE LATEST NETSCAPE SOFTWARE
Select here and click below
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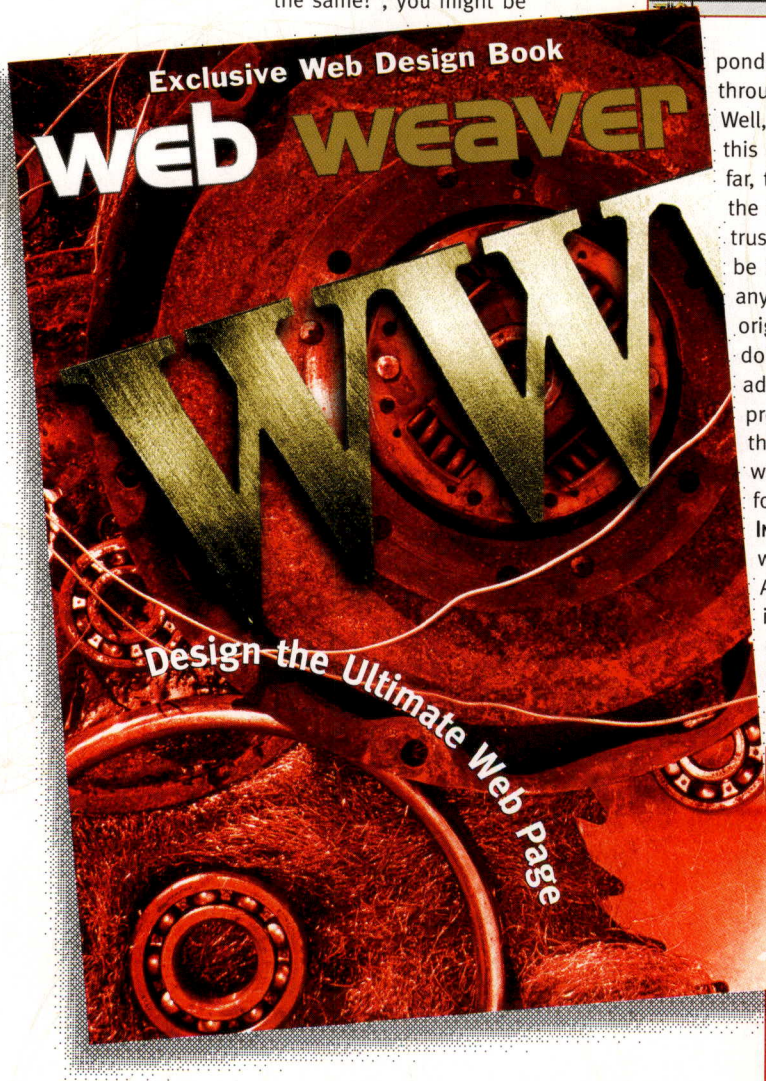
TRY IT
BUY IT
INFO
GENERAL STORE SPECIAL

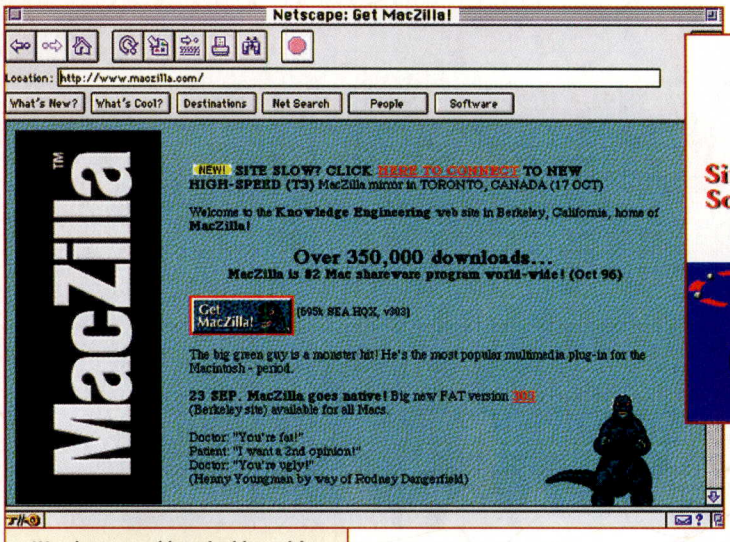
Web Weaver will explain exactly how Web pages are designed.

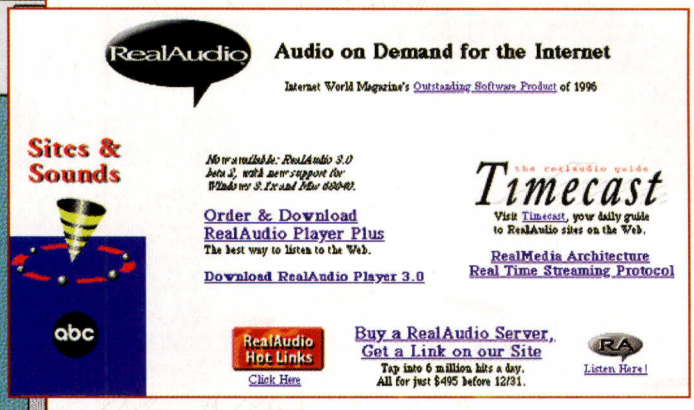


In a world that so often accepts mediocrity you might be wondering if TOTAL INTERNET is destined to be just another Internet magazine taking up space on the shelves. After all the newsagent's are starting to get pretty crowded these days with Internet titles, some of which have very little to set them apart from all their rivals for your attention. In fact, you might even be justifiably sceptical about our ability to conjure up anything really new in such a crowded field of publishing. "It's just more of the same?", you might be pondering as you browse through our pages.

Well, before you pursue this line of thought too far, take the magazine to the check-out, buy it, and trust me! Sure, it would be foolish for us to claim anything like 100% originality in what we are doing with this new addition to the Internet press, but I do think that we have come up with a magazine formula to put TOTAL INTERNET right up there with the top titles. An important ingredient in this originality is the introduction of a regular 'magazine within a magazine' from next issue. We're calling this *Web Weaver* and, to whet your tastebuds, it takes the form of a covermounted book for this the launch issue.

From issue two onwards, *Web Weaver* will be a monthly 10 to 12 page supplement within TOTAL INTERNET, that will contain all that's new in Web design – from the latest extensions to HTML to news about plug-ins, from industry rumours to book and software reviews. It will all be in this section, along with monthly hints, tips and tutorials. Basically, if it's related to the art of producing good Web pages expect to see it featured in future issues of *Web Weaver*.


Netscape: Get MacZilla!
Location: http://www.maczilla.com/
What's New? What's Cool? Destinations Net Search People Software
MacZilla
NEW! SITE SLOW? CLICK HERE TO CONNECT TO NEW HIGH-SPEED (T3) MacZilla mirror in TORONTO, CANADA (17 OCT)
Welcome to the Knowledge Engineering web site in Berkeley, California, home of MacZilla!
Over 350,000 downloads...
MacZilla is #2 Mac shareware program world-wide! (Oct 96)
Get MacZilla!
(595k SEA HQX, v903)
The big green guy is a monster hit! He's the most popular multimedia plug-in for the Macintosh - period.
23 SEP. MacZilla goes native! Big new FAT version 903 (Berkeley site) available for all Macs.
Doctor: "You're fat!"
Patient: "I want a 2nd opinion!"
Doctor: "You're ugly!"
(Henny Youngman by way of Rodney Dangerfield)


RealAudio
Audio on Demand for the Internet
Internet World Magazine's Outstanding Software Product of 1996
Sites & Sounds
abc
Now available: RealAudio 3.0 beta 3, with new support for Windows 3.1x and Mac 68040.
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We aim to provide valuable and in-depth information for Web designers of all skill levels.

For me, the opportunity to edit (and read!) a magazine section such as *Web Weaver* is something

"If it's related to the art of producing

I've been looking forward to for quite a while. As a professional Web designer I'm more than aware of the dynamic nature of my chosen profession and for about six months now I've seen a need for a new Internet publication such as this. Basically, one that – on a selfish level – would help me keep in touch with Web design developments and, more generally, would encourage and support the fast-moving UK Web design community.

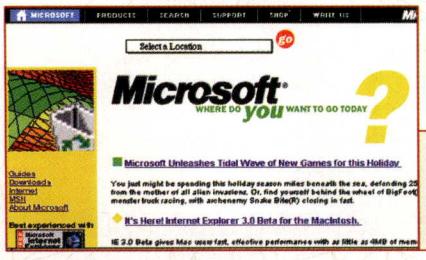
Given the nature of the field, though, how can Web designers be 'tooled-up' with new skills as quickly and painlessly as possible? After all we have enough to do building Web sites without pouring over mountains of textbooks and online tutorials? Well, in my view the key to this is to first make designers aware of what they need to know and secondly to point them in the direction of the best, and most concise, learning resources – be they on paper or on screen.

good Web pages expect to see it

With its mixture of news, views and features *Web Weaver* aims to do exactly this. Keeping you up-to-date with the state of the art and giving you the vital information you need to stay ahead in this rapidly changing field.

It's not just the professional designer who can expect to benefit from *Web Weaver*. If your interest in Web design is purely as an 'enthusiastic amateur' then we have plenty to offer. We think that Web design should be both rewarding and fun and we will be reinforcing this message with articles and case studies showing how 'ordinary people' use the Web. Professionals should also take note of this, as many amateur designers put us to shame with their enthusiasm and skill! For now read and enjoy the book...

featured in future issues of Web Weaver."


Select a Location
Microsoft
WHERE DO you WANT TO GO TODAY
Microsoft Unleashes Tidal Wave of New Games for this Holiday
It's Here! Internet Explorer 3.0 Beta for the Macintosh.

Every month Web Weaver will help you keep in touch with and practice new Web design developments.

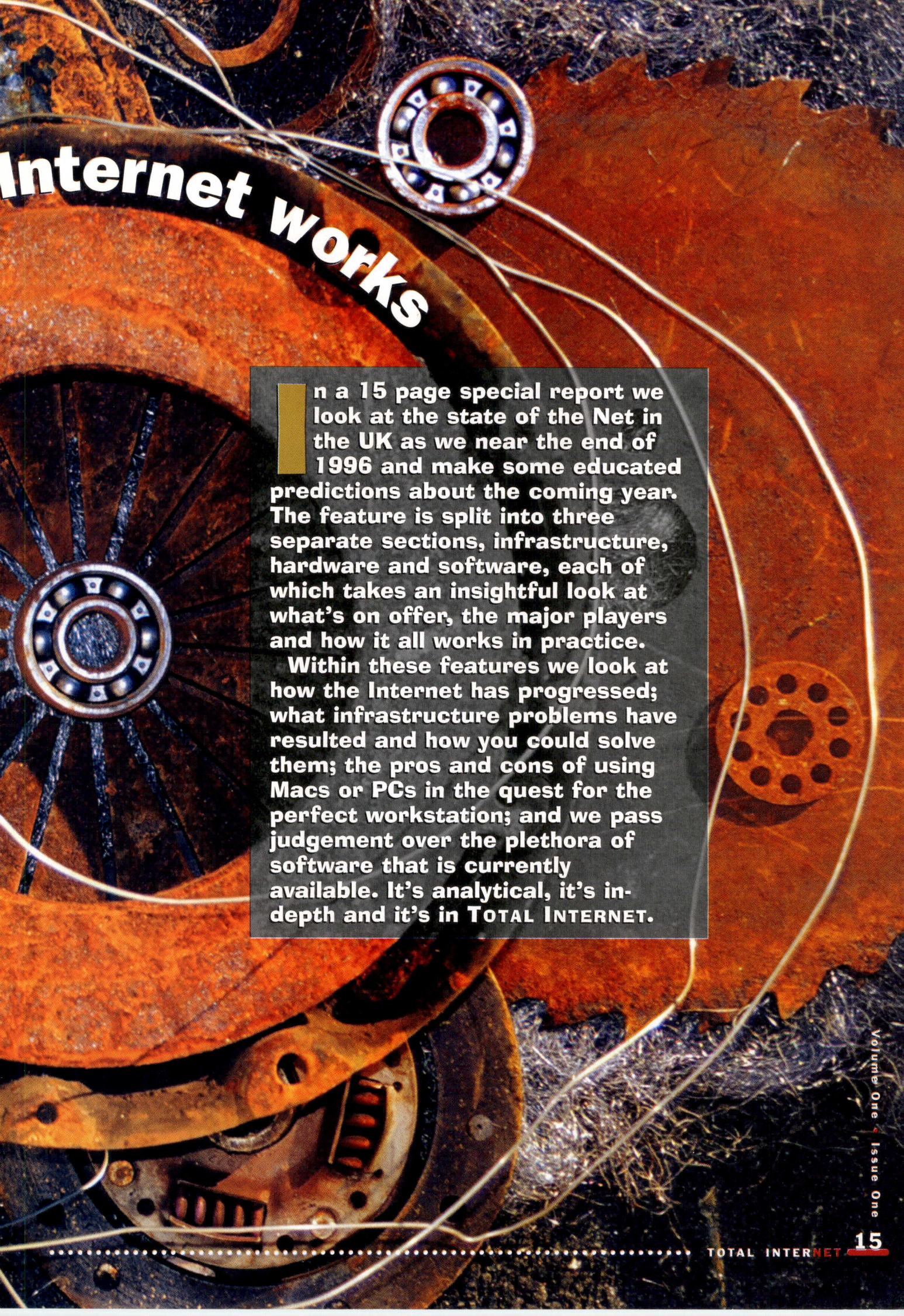
Coming Soon

Enough of generalities, what has *Web Weaver* got lined up for you in the near future? Well, next month our main feature is a guide to ShockWave, Macromedia's exciting multimedia delivery technology for the Web, followed by a look at what we think are the 20 best Web design information sites on offer. We'll also be de-mystifying the creation of animated GIFs, looking at the differences between Web browsers and showing you how to design your sites for 'compatibility'.

If you want to know what you need to know about Web weaving then make sure you buy TOTAL INTERNET! Oh, and if you want to contribute to this part of the magazine or have a question to ask, please feel free to get in touch.

Sean Clark seanc@headland.co.uk.

Discover how the



Internet works

In a 15 page special report we look at the state of the Net in the UK as we near the end of 1996 and make some educated predictions about the coming year. The feature is split into three separate sections, infrastructure, hardware and software, each of which takes an insightful look at what's on offer, the major players and how it all works in practice.

Within these features we look at how the Internet has progressed; what infrastructure problems have resulted and how you could solve them; the pros and cons of using Macs or PCs in the quest for the perfect workstation; and we pass judgement over the plethora of software that is currently available. It's analytical, it's in-depth and it's in TOTAL INTERNET.

Infra Penny, Infra Pound

In the first section of our look at the state of the Net in the UK, we ask how the Internet evolved the way it has and what we can expect in the future?

Educate Yourself About The Net

If you want to find out more about the Net's origins and the current state of play there is plenty of information out there:

Community Memory (Discussion on the history of Cyber Space) – http://www.reach.com/matrix/community-memory.html

Hobbes' Internet Timeline – http://info.isoc.org/quest/zakon/Internet/History/HIT.html

View From The Internet Valley – http://www.hooked.net/netvalley/intval.html

The Internet Index – http://www.openmarket.com/intindex/

Internet Trends – http://www.genmagic.com/internet/trends/

Cyber Atlas – http://www.december.com/web/text/cyberatlas.html

HyperSpace Research Project - http://www.cs.bham.ac.uk/~amw/hypersapce/

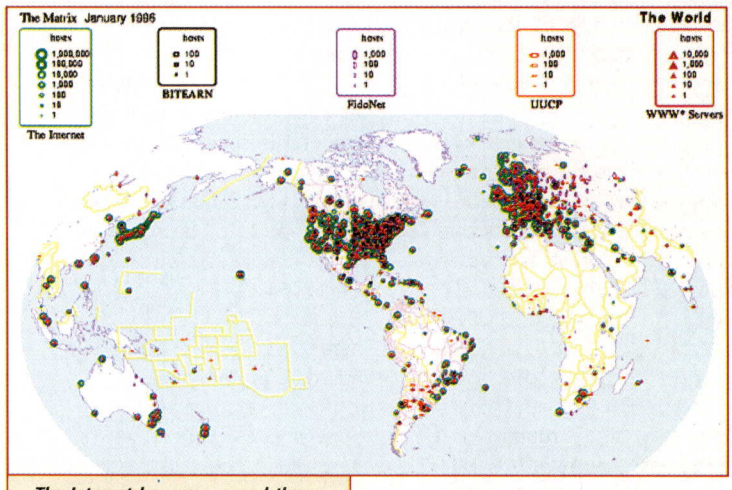
EFF's (Extended) Guide To The Internet - http://ukoln.bath.ac.uk/mirror/dummy/

The Internet wasn't really ever meant to happen in the way that it has. It was started by the American Government as a means of creating a secure computer system so that, in the event of any major problems, a break down in one part of their national computer system wouldn't mean a complete and total failure. From that, the Internet has mutated into a world wide network of computers where the same founding principle still applies – there are many routes through the Internet, and if one part goes down it's still possible to access the majority.

Over the following five pages we explain how the Internet fits together, where the biggest changes have taken place over the past two years, what the bottlenecks are and how they could be improved in the future, how the advent of cable companies in the UK Internet market will change its nature and what the options are for connecting to the superhighway. It's a large subject area and at first glance it can seem very complex and confusing, but a little bit of knowledge can help you to use the Internet in a better, more efficient way, and help you understand just why the Internet is here to stay.

The Internet: What, Where and How?

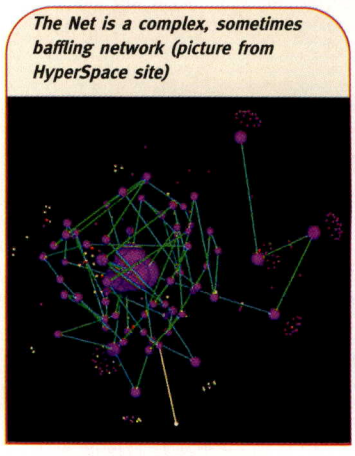
To try and describe what the Internet is sometimes feels like trying to describe the colour red to someone who has never seen it before. It is a lot of things to a lot of people, and is no longer just one system for connecting. Now, the Internet is more of an information backbone than ever, and the type of information that flows across it is as diverse as the people who use the system.



The Internet has now spread the world over.

To think that every part of the Internet is connected to every other whitewashes the relationship that exists between different parts of the system. In simplistic terms each country has its own internal network, and there are connections from these that go to other networks in other countries. For example the UK network has many connections to places such as America and their networks, so, although it appears that you are going directly to a site when you log on, even if it is in America, the messages from your modem are being pushed down a few lines out of the country to a main exchange somewhere in America and from there are being passed around until they reach their destination. This is where the much talked about IP address comes in. Each server on the Internet has its own unique IP address, so that it can be found from anywhere else on the Net easily and without confusion.

The past two years alone have seen such increases in band width (the amount of information that can pass down a line) that minimum home user specs for modems have near enough quadrupled and the United Kingdom especially has invested heavily in its own Internet infrastructure, gradually becoming more aware in the process. Now Net traffic is soaring, unchecked, at a phenomenal rate, which



The Net is a complex, sometimes baffling network (picture from HyperSpace site)

BT versus Cable

If you're thinking of getting another line connected for your modem access, then bear the following in mind. BT charge around £100 to connect a new line. With a company like Nynex if you already have Cable television it costs nothing, if not then it costs around £20. Cable calls are, on average, around 20-25% cheaper, and their line charges are slightly less expensive as well.

explains why the Internet isn't perfect and why the issue of bottlenecks is on everybody's minds at the moment.

Where Are The Bottlenecks?

Each time you use the Internet there are a number of places where your traffic can, and normally is, held up. Some of these include:

Your ISP's Infrastructure: If the connection from them to the rest of the Internet is limited and many users are using the same connection, the band width has to be shared and this incurs time delays.

Accessing A Well Used Server: If you are trying to access a site that is popular (or even if the site isn't popular but is running on a slow server) your requests will have to queue behind everyone else's, slowing things up.

Transatlantic Links: If you're accessing a site out of the U.K. your traffic will have to flow through transatlantic links, which you will be sharing with all the other users currently connecting with your ISP.

Although not a complete list of trouble spots, these three tend to account for most of the delays when using the Internet. Unfortunately there isn't much you can do about these, but there are ways you can squeeze a little more speed from your connection.

Removing The Cork From The Bottle

The Internet is stuffed to bursting point. A sweeping statement I know, but one that's undoubtedly true. However, there are ways in which you can speed up your access, and get it running smoother. The following list of check points should help you reduce the bottlenecks and help ease your surfing.

Your Modem: If you're using a 14.4k modem or slower and you're accessing the World Wide Web often, the simple message is change now. A 28.8k or 33.6k modem should be on your list of expenses. In the long run, you'll save the money spent on your phone bill.

Your Computer: No matter how fast your connection is, if your computer is constantly churning things back and forth from memory then things are going to slow down. You'd be surprised what a difference an extra 4 mb of memory makes.

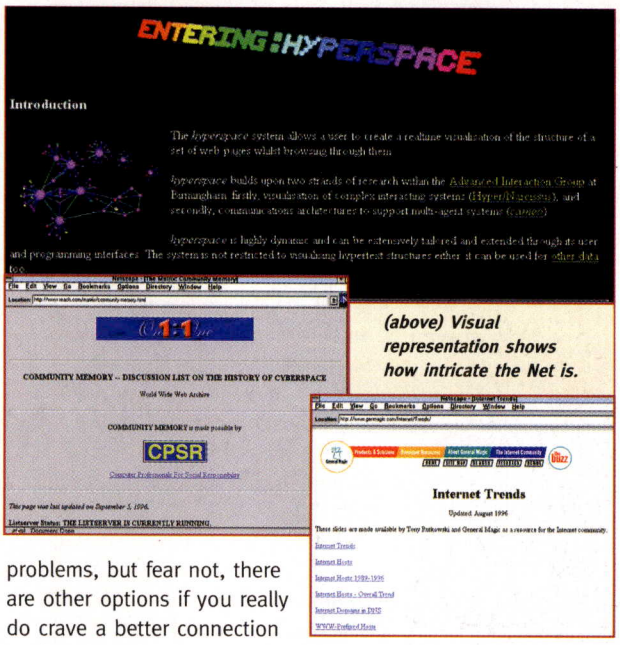
Your Internet Service Provider: There are some very good ISPs and some terrible ones and it's worth checking out just what happens when you connect to one of their modems. Check out the section on ISPs later on.

"There are ways you can squeeze a little more speed from your connection."

The Software You Use: Again, if you're accessing the World Wide Web then you should really now be using either Netscape's Navigator 3.0 **http://home.netscape.com/** or Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0 **http://www.microsoft.com/ie/** as these are more optimised products than previous versions, are less bug ridden and generally operate faster.

The Time You Connect: For most there won't be much choice here, as you'll probably have to connect when you're not working, mainly in the evenings. However, there are definite times when the volume of traffic on the Internet eases. Wait for most of America to go home from work, about 12pm onwards, and you'll find things much faster. Also, weekends tend to be a fairly quick.

Of course none of these points are going to completely remove the problems, but fear not, there are other options if you really do crave a better connection to the Internet.

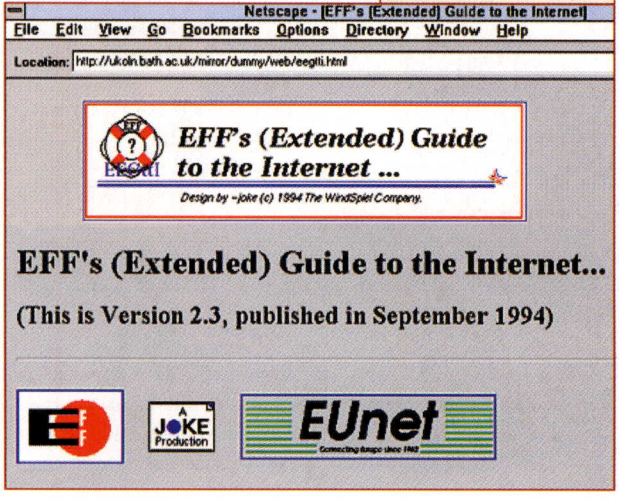


(above) Visual representation shows how intricate the Net is.

The Cable Revolution

Until recently, the main way to get Internet access from home was with a modem connected to a BT (or Mercury) line. However, the past year has seen the growth of Cable companies, not only offering the standard television service but also a dedicated phone service. This has already led to cheaper telephone calls being available

EFF's guide is one of the best sources about the Internet.


Netscape - [EFF's (Extended) Guide to the Internet]
File Edit View Go Bookmarks Options Directory Window Help
Location: http://ukoln.bath.ac.uk/mirror/dummy/web/eegtti.html
EFF's (Extended) Guide to the Internet ...
Design by -Joke (c) 1994 The WindSpiel Company.
EFF's (Extended) Guide to the Internet...
(This is Version 2.3, published in September 1994)
JOKE Production
EUnet

Space On The World Wide Web

In addition to the normal service offered by an ISP, many are now giving away free Web space on their server, ranging from 500k to around 5 mb (although this is unusual). If you're after such a service, then check, because you might be able to get it free, although some providers do place certain restrictions on what the site can be used for.

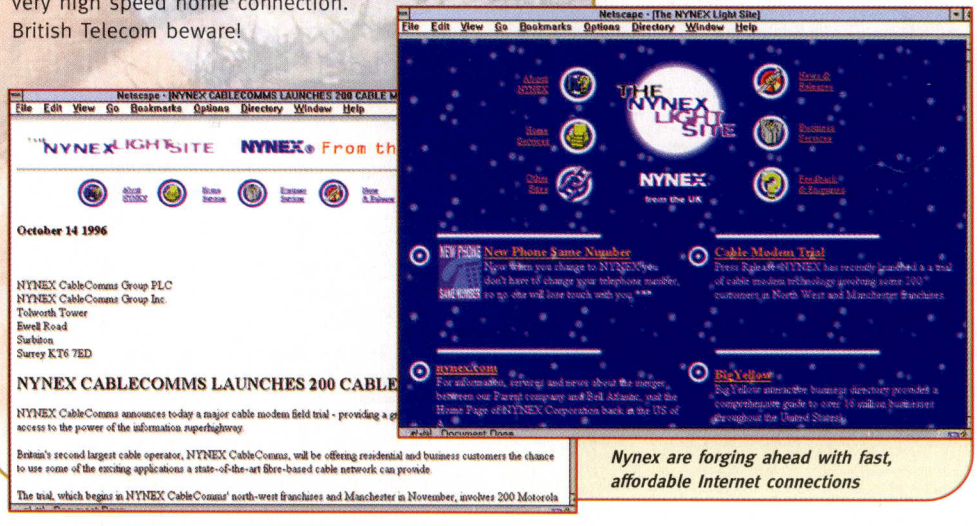
Nynex

http://www.nynex.co.uk/nynex/

Nynex are at the forefront of Cable providers when it comes to offering better access to Internet users. They have just launched a cable modem trial with 200 trial users. Until now cable modems haven't been available, but now, using the Motorola CyberSURFR cable modem, Nynex can offer connection speeds of up to 10,000,000 bits a second (10Mbit) which is considerably faster even than ISDN. Linked in with this trial is their GEMISIS 2000 system (Government, Educational, Medical, Industrial and Social Information Superhighway), a project undertaken jointly with the public and private sector. At the centre of this is the Virtual Chamber of Commerce which aims to provide high speed Internet access, email, local content information servers, remote LAN access (linking those working from home with the office) and a CD-ROM library where homes and schools can access CD-ROMs over the Internet from a central library.

This could be a big step in the growing input and influence cable companies are having on the Internet and, once it becomes a reasonable possibility for every home user, it will be cheap and affordable to have a very high speed home connection.

British Telecom beware!


Netscape - [The NYNEX Light Site]
File Edit View Go Bookmarks Options Directory Window Help
THE NYNEX LIGHT SITE
NYNEX
New Phone Same Number
Cable Modem Trial
nynex.com
BigYellow
Netscape - NYNEX CABLECOMMS LAUNCHES 200 CABLE M
File Edit View Go Bookmarks Options Directory Window Help
NYNEX LIGHT SITE
October 14 1996
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NYNEX CableComms Group Inc.
Tolworth Tower
Ewell Road
Surbiton
Surrey KT6 7ED
NYNEX CABLECOMMS LAUNCHES 200 CABLE
NYNEX CableComms announces today a major cable modem field trial - providing a
access to the power of the information superhighway.
Britain's second largest cable operator, NYNEX CableComms, will be offering residential and business customers the chance
to use some of the exciting applications a state-of-the-art fibre-based cable network can provide.
The trial, which begins in NYNEX CableComms' north-west franchises and Manchester in November, involves 200 Motorola

Nynex are forging ahead with fast, affordable Internet connections

to cable users and has helped drop the cost of Internet access.

But this is just the tip of the iceberg. Cable companies are investing heavily in creating an infrastructure that is capable of handling much more than just television and telephone data. Using fibre optic cables, the amount of information a cable connection to your home can carry is, quite honestly, phenomenal. Some Internet Service Providers have already arranged deals with cable companies, allowing cheap leased lines (bear in mind though that these aren't currently equivalent to BT leased lines and operate only at the fastest modem speed) to be purchased, giving a constant connection to the Internet for as little as £100 a month. Using a leased line also means that there are no call charges. One such company already doing this in the Nottingham area is Griffin Internet, **http://www.griffin.co.uk/**.

"Cable companies are investing heavily in creating an infrastructure"

However, this still doesn't tap into the potential. Now that Motorola have developed a specialised cable modem, see the box about Nynex for more information, full time connections with 10Mbit/second transfer rates are only just around the corner. It's an exciting time as a home user, as costs are falling and performance is increasing logarithmically. The new competition to the traditional telecommunication giant BT can only, in the long run, be good news for the likes of you an I.

Internet Service Providers

Since the Internet became big business in the United Kingdom the number of Internet Service Providers (the people you use to connect to the Internet) has grown considerably, so much so that there are now more than a hundred in operation. Some of these are country wide, some of them are fairly local, but all should be providing a certain level of service. Basically through your provider you should be able to send and receive email, obtain all the Usenet groups (unless the ISP enforces some sort of censorship on certain news group, which you may find an attractive option), and access to the World Wide Web, Telnet and Internet Relay Chat. On top of this check out their telephone support, there will be times when you will need this so it's nice to know it's on hand.

Modems versus Users

Another important point to bear in mind is the number of modems available for users to connect to, usually quoted as a ratio of users per modem. For instance Demon are currently running at 30:1 and CIX at 160:1! It's worth checking this statistic out when you're choosing an ISP to use, as, at peak times, you could find a constant engaged tone for hours on end, just when you want to be using the Internet yourself.

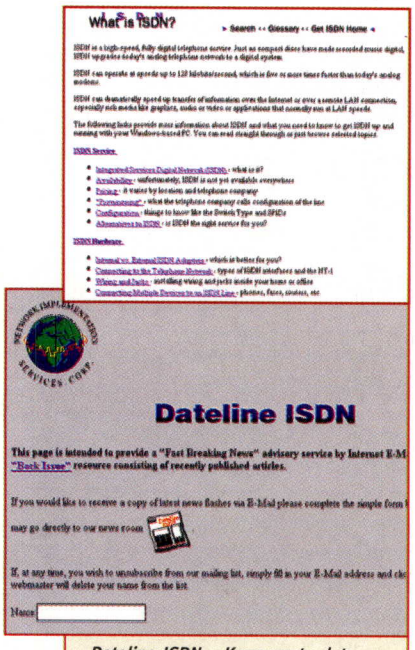
Inter-Com http://www.inter-com.co.uk/

Useful site for getting names and addresses of cable and telecoms operators in your area, so you can see exactly what they have to offer you as an Internet user.

Modems and The ISDN Revolution

Many of you are no doubt using a modem connected to a normal phone line to get your access to the Internet and have probably at one time or another cursed the blessed Internet for just being too damn slow.

There is an alternative that has become relatively cheaper in recent times, although for most it will still be out of their reach. This is, of course, ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network), which in plain terms is a digital telephone line capable of transferring much more information, in much shorter times than a normal analogue



Dateline ISDN – Keep up to date with the latest ISDN advances.

ISP Internet Addresses and Phone Numbers

This is by no means a complete listing of Internet Service Providers, but if you're looking to change who you're using check out some of the following:

Cityscape:
http://www.cityscape.co.uk/ - 01223 566950

Demon Internet:
http://www.demon.net/
- 0181 371 1234

Easynet Ltd:
http://www.easynet.co.uk/
- 0171 209 0990

Gates Net:
http://www.gates.co.uk/
- 0181 561 5040

Global Internet:
http://www.globalnet.co.uk/
- 0181 957 1005

IBM Global Network:
http://www01.ny.us.ibm.net/
- 0181 578 9343

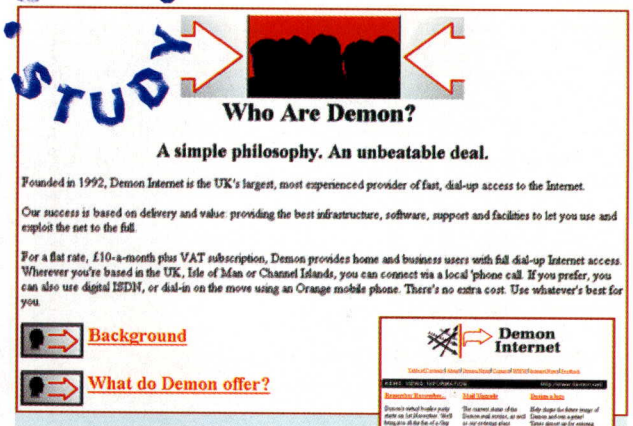
Planet Internet:
http://www.uk.pi.net/
- 0171 345 4000

U-NET:
http://www.u-net.net/
- 01925 633144

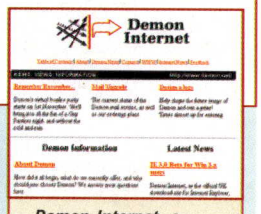
Unipalm PIPEX:
http://www.unipalm.pipex.com/
- 0541 506066

Zynet:
http://www.zynet.co.uk/
- 01392 209500

CASE STUDY



Demon Internet



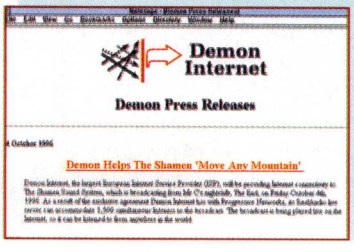
Demon Internet, a long running ISP.

Demon Internet were one of the first major Internet Service Providers to appear in the United Kingdom and still have the highest number of subscribers. At the last count they have 75,000 dial-up customers alone. Demon Internet appeared in June 1992, created from an existing software production company, Demon Systems. They saw a market and hoped to have about 200 customers by the end of the first year. It was impossible for them to forecast the growing fervour that the Internet would create and their plans of having 4,500 customers by October 1995 were wildly underestimated – they actually had 45,000.

Demon have never rested on their laurels. They were the first to operate a system of 'virtual points of presence', giving local call access to the Internet from the majority of the country. This was a deal with Energis that changed the way providers operated. Rather than having physical points of presence scattered around the country, requiring a large outlay for equipment and maintenance, the virtual points of presence simply relay the telephone calls to a main base of operation.

Demon have managed to come up with very flexible options for people to connect to the Internet, all for a £10 a month subscription charge. It costs no more to have an ISDN connection (although obviously the costs of setting this up are more, due to hardware and line rentals) or to connect to the Demon system using a mobile phone. By forging an agreement with Orange, Demon now have a dedicated service to mobile phone customers, allowing connection and access to the network within eight seconds of the call being made.

Demon provide you with installation software for completely setting up your Internet access - covering everything from email to the World Wide Web. As a separate point, Demon Internet have now also become the only official United Kingdom down load site for Microsoft's Internet Explorer 3.0.



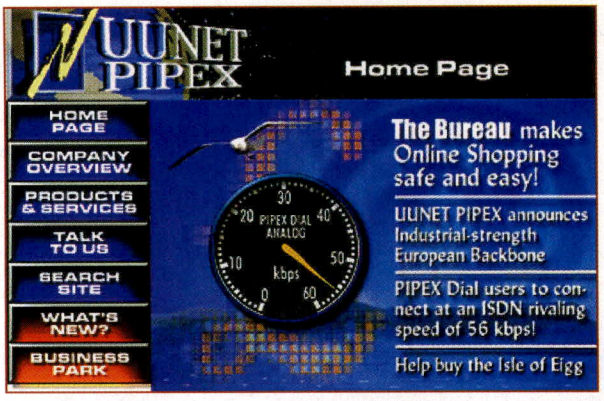
For More Information on ISDN

If you want to find out more about ISDN, the following sites will point you in the right direction.

UK ISDN Guide – http://www.timm.demon.co.uk/

What is ISDN? – http://www.microsoft.com/windows/getisdn/whatis.htm

Or try the comp.dcom.isdn Usenet news group.



News Groups On Satellite

Pipex recently announced that it would be delivering newsgroups over Satellite to Internet Service Providers, removing a great deal of Internet traffic from what are already clogged up connections. It's an undeniable fact that newsgroups do place a heavy burden on the Internet and if enough ISPs take up the Pipex deal it should see a drop off in the amount of traffic news groups account for, which is a good thing.

telephone line.

An ISDN line doesn't use a normal modem, in fact the kit to use an ISDN line can cost around £400. Some Internet Service Providers will charge you more to be able to access their service using ISDN, and on top of that you've still got phone call charges (at normal phone call rates) and a much larger monthly rental fee (BT are constantly changing their prices for ISDN, but at the moment it is around £130 a quarter).

However, wait a while and not only will ISDN probably become even cheaper, but new ways of connecting through Cable companies could make it feasible for almost every household to afford a fast Internet connection.

The Future's so Bright

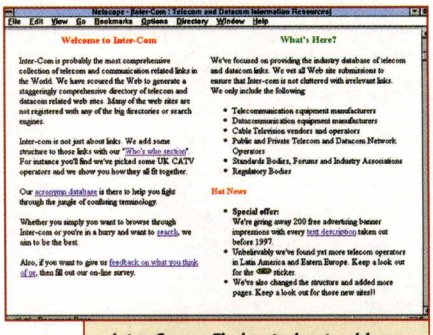
The Internet is not a stagnant entity, that much of it certainly is. Although the basic principles of the way the system connects together won't ever change. It's this structure that creates the Internet, though it will continue to evolve. That Cable companies will have a dramatic impact is certain and quite what British Telecom will do to counter this onslaught is, as yet, unclear. The problem they will have is that Cable companies have already invested heavily in a high speed, high volume infrastructure, where as BT are still, for the majority, using telephone connections that simply cannot offer much more than they already do. Their saving grace is ISDN, although still not up to the possibilities offered by Cable, and still very expensive for the home user, it does offer them a glimmer of hope.

Whether the Internet infrastructure will be able to cope better in the future is another matter. Taking the world as whole, it's still only a small percentage that are connected to the Internet and the growth in users is continuing alarmingly fast.This means rapid increases in the amount of traffic flowing around. At the moment, for many, it seems to be reaching saturation point with traffic jams on the superhighway a constant thorn in user's sides. The fear for the future of the Net is that traffic might continue to outgrow the possibilities offered by the infrastructure. If this is the case then it might all lose its appeal and start to degenerate, but I doubt it. There are options, the brightest of which does seem to lie with the Cable operators, and if these developments are pushed through it is possible for the traffic to be kept in check.

It's going to be a time of rapid change and if you're thinking of altering the way you connect to the Internet then weigh up the options carefully. What might seem to be a cheap and efficient way connecting at the moment may be sadly lacking when push comes to shove in the near future.

What You Get For Your Tenner

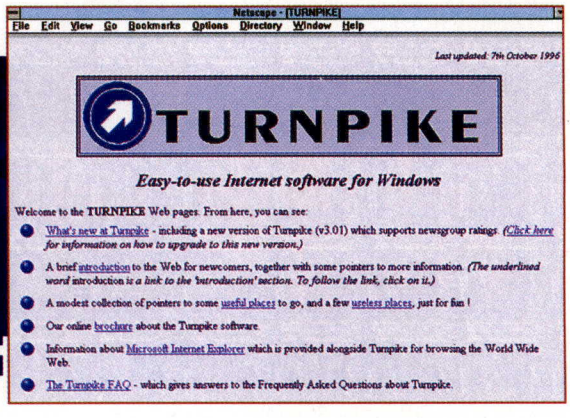
For a monthly subscription of £10, you'll get access to the Demon network through whatever system is easiest for you – either home dial-up, ISDN, or through a mobile phone – and 5 mb of World Wide Web space on their server. There are no restrictions to your amount of time online and you also get the Demon connection suite of software, which is one of the best currently offered by an ISP.

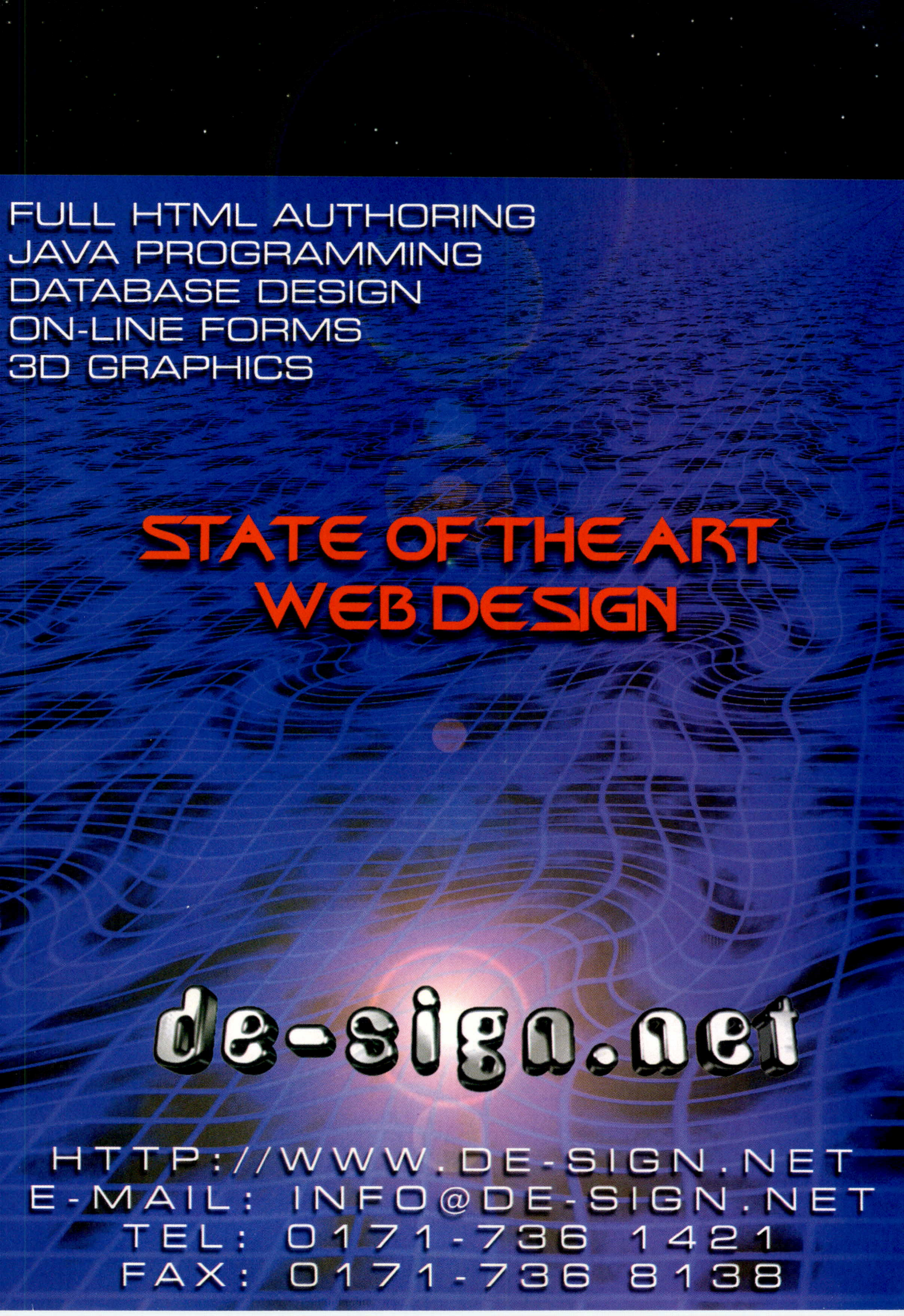

Netscape - Inter-Com : Telecom and Datacom Information Resources
File Edit View Go Bookmarks Options Directory Window Help
Welcome to Inter-Com
What's Here?
Hot News

Inter-Com – Find out about cable and telecom operators.

Demon's Infrastructure

Demon has, probably without exception, the best connection infrastructure of any United Kingdom ISP. They have recently purchased a DS3 45 mb transatlantic link, giving the largest potential bandwidth for customers in the UK, a 100 mb connection to the London Internet Exchange (LINX), which is a neutral interconnection point for all ISPs in the country to help route traffic, and they have a 2 mb connection to Amsterdam. If all this makes little sense then just bear in mind that it means there's a massive amount of bandwidth available to you, the customer!


Netscape - [TURNPIKE]
File Edit View Go Bookmarks Options Directory Window Help
Last updated: 7th October 1996
TURNPIKE
Easy-to-use Internet software for Windows
Welcome to the TURNPIKE Web pages. From here, you can see:
What's new at Turnpike - including a new version of Turnpike (v3.01) which supports newsgroup ratings. (Click here for information on how to upgrade to this new version.)
A brief introduction to the Web for newcomers, together with some pointers to more information. (The underlined word introduction is a link to the 'introduction' section. To follow the link, click on it.)
A modest collection of pointers to some useful places to go, and a few useless places, just for fun !
Our online brochure about the Turnpike software.
Information about Microsoft Internet Explorer which is provided alongside Turnpike for browsing the World Wide Web.
The Turnpike FAQ - which gives answers to the Frequently Asked Questions about Turnpike.


FULL HTML AUTHORING
JAVA PROGRAMMING
DATABASE DESIGN
ON-LINE FORMS
3D GRAPHICS
STATE OF THE ART
WEB DESIGN
de-sign.net
HTTP://WWW.DE-SIGN.NET
E-MAIL: INFO@DE-SIGN.NET
TEL: 0171-736 1421
FAX: 0171-736 8138

Hardware

It's inevitable that the growth of the Internet has sped up the evolution of the hardware it requires. Here we take a look at what you need to create the perfect workstation...

Duty Now – For the Future

With the Internet now undeniably popular with an ever growing mass of people, the applications it can be used for have also grown and because of this the hardware needed has evolved faster than ever before. Take the simple case of modems.

"Towards the end of the year, or the start of 1997, a new range of 56k modems will be available."

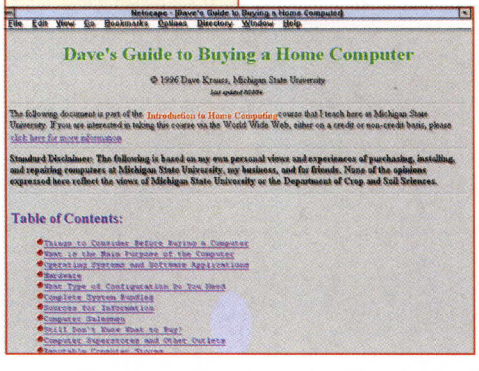
A little over a year ago a 14.4k modem was considered the norm, perfectly adequate for surfing the Internet. Now, however, if you're using less than a 28.8k modem and are trying to tap into the power of, say, the World Wide Web, you'll find yourself waiting around, making trawling the Internet a bind rather than an enjoyment.

In this section I will be discussing just what you should look for in a good Internet work station, how Macs compare to PCs for Internet access, the new generation of Net communicators, what you'll need to get online through a mobile phone and what the future holds for the sort of systems you'll be using to get online. There are many issues that can baffle the home user when getting a new machine, or upgrading an existing setup and this is especially true now that most will be using their system to ride the Superhighway.

Modem

It goes without saying that the faster the modem the better. You can still crawl by with a 14.4k modem, but a 28.8k will be a big improvement. Also, towards the very end of the year, or the start of 1997, a new range of 56k modems will be available although at present there's some doubt that these will be able to be used by most people, due to the sort of telephone line needed.

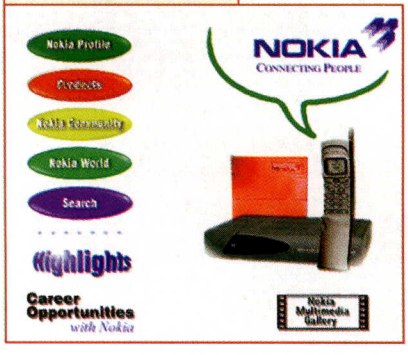
Get advice before you buy a new PC.


Netscape - [Dave's Guide to Buying a Home Computer]
File Edit View Go Bookmarks Options Directory Window Help
Dave's Guide to Buying a Home Computer
© 1996 Dave Krauss, Michigan State University
Table of Contents:

What Makes A Good Internet Work Station

There is no one definitive answer to this, unfortunately, but you can use the following points to help you acquire the sort of machine you wish to buy. As a rough guide, if you're not accessing the World Wide Web (probably very few of you) the type of machine you use won't really make much difference, because 99% of the traffic you'll be sending, receiving and dealing with will be text. If you are, however, then you really do have to think a bit harder about the work station specification you'll require.

Nokia - new range of Internet appliances.



Upgrading Your Hardware

Check out the following sites for new sound cards and graphics cards for your PC:

MATROX (graphics cards) - http://www.cen.uiuc.edu/~jeske/MatroxMillenium/

VILLAGE TRONIC (graphics cards) - http://www.phone.net/~mwm/picasso/

ATI (graphics cards) - http://www.ati.com/

ORCHID (graphics cards) - http://www.orchid.com/

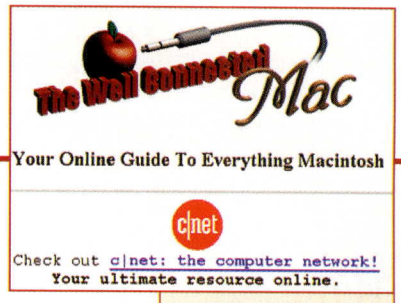
ENQONIQ (sound cards) - http://www.ensoniq.com/

TURTLE BEACH (sound cards) - http://www.tbeach.com/

CREATIVE LABS (sound cards) - http://www.creaf.com/

The Well Connected Mac (http://www.macfaq.com/)

Like Dave's Guide, this is a good site if you are thinking of buying a Mac but need more information and want to find out what's available. Includes a vendor list and details on all the software that's available etc. Good resource site if you already own a Mac as well.


The Well Connected Mac
Your Online Guide To Everything Macintosh
c|net
Check out c|net: the computer network!
Your ultimate resource online.

The Well Connected Mac - good Mac info.

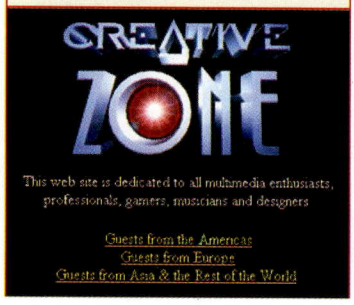
Memory

This can be all the difference between a good and bad work station. Whatever make of machine you're using, 4Mb is not adequate, 8Mb is better, and good enough for most purposes, but 16Mb is the most favourable. Of course, anything over 16Mb and you should be laughing at everyone else...

Processor Speed

If you're using the World Wide Web intensively for things such as live video, audio or VRML for instance, the fastest processor you can lay your hands on would be preferable. A Mac from the 7500 Power PC and up range will handle it adequately though, as will a 486 100Mhz or higher.

Creative Labs, responsible for the Sound Blaster cards.


CREATIVE
ZONE
This web site is dedicated to all multimedia enthusiasts, professionals, gamers, musicians and designers
Guests from the Americas
Guests from Europe
Guests from Asia & the Rest of the World

computer magazine should enable you able to pick up a graphics card for under £100.

Sound Capabilities

Not everybody is interested in tapping into the sound side of the Internet, but with advances such as Real Audio it's worth giving a second thought to this area. It's now much more feasible to receive quality audio over the Internet so a good work station should really include this. Macs all come with 16-bit sound already, but for the PC something like a Sound Blaster will always fit the bill.

What is important to bear in mind, whatever machine you choose, is that it should be easy to upgrade as and when the time comes. Due to the fast changing nature of the Internet and the computer industry in general, machines bought now could be obsolete in six to 12 months time. But, most machines these days have some element of 'future proofing' and things such as graphics cards and processors can easily be upgraded with the minimum amount of fuss.

Macs versus PCs

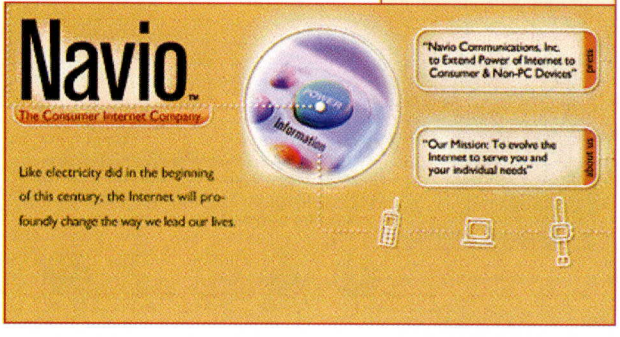
This old chestnut keeps on raising its head from time to time and now it's my turn to put the cases for the defence and the prosecution forward. Firstly, a Mac is a much simpler machine to buy. Nearly everything you'd need for an adequate Internet work station comes as standard – audio and graphics wise. It's simply a matter of choosing a machine to fit your price range.

Once you've made your purchase you might find that Macs are constricting in terms of what you can upgrade in them. Some models have the graphics and sound parts of the system all on the main board inside the computer, making it nearly

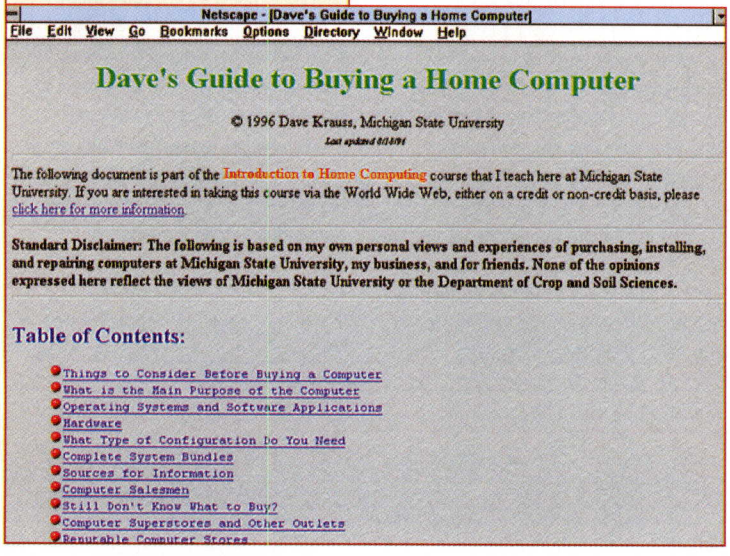
Software on the Macs and PC

Whether you buy or use a Mac or a PC, you'll have no problems in getting the latest Internet software, such as World Wide Web browsers, for your platform. Although PCs have the largest market share, Macs are also very widely used and so anything of any use will be available for both formats.

Navio – Promoting WWW browsers for many different platforms.


Navio
The Consumer Internet Company
"Navio Communications, Inc. to Extend Power of Internet to Consumer & Non-PC Devices"
"Our Mission: To evolve the Internet to serve you and your individual needs"
Like electricity did in the beginning of this century, the Internet will profoundly change the way we lead our lives.

Obtaining a better graphics card will liven up your surfing.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File Edit View Go Bookmarks Options Directory Window Help
Dave's Guide to Buying a Home Computer
© 1996 Dave Krauss, Michigan State University
Last updated 8/18/96
The following document is part of the Introduction to Home Computing course that I teach here at Michigan State University. If you are interested in taking this course via the World Wide Web, either on a credit or non-credit basis, please click here for more information.
Standard Disclaimer: The following is based on my own personal views and experiences of purchasing, installing, and repairing computers at Michigan State University, my business, and for friends. None of the opinions expressed here reflect the views of Michigan State University or the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences.
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Things to Consider Before Buying a Computer
What is the Main Purpose of the Computer
Operating Systems and Software Applications
Hardware
What Type of Configuration Do You Need
Complete System Bundles
Sources for Information
Computer Salesmen
Still Don't Know What to Buy?
Computer Superstores and Other Outlets
Reputable Computer Stores

Graphics Capabilities

In these days of the bold, brash Internet a 256 colour machine or less is of little use. Luckily, new graphics cards for the PC are very cheap these days and a visit to your local PC store or a scour through any relevant

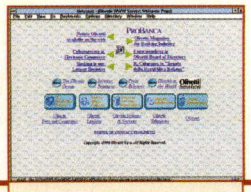
Dave's Guide To Buying A Home Computer

(http://www.css.msu.edu/pc-guide.html)

Try this site to find out more about what you should be looking for in a good PC and one that will be satisfactory for your Internet surfing. It's well presented, easily laid out and contains information on many topics from the type of configuration you should get to the reputable computer manufacturers to deal with.

Olivetti (http://www.olivetti.com/)

A few months ago Olivetti were all the talk when they announced a new range of two computers that worked on televisions. These PCs were not only a lot cheaper than a normal PC of the same spec, but also had many extra features included that are normally options on most computers. It could be that rather than going for one of the new set top boxes, using one of these Olivetti machines might provide an easy way of getting the Internet onto your television screen.



Olivetti – Producers of PCs for televisions.

Motorola

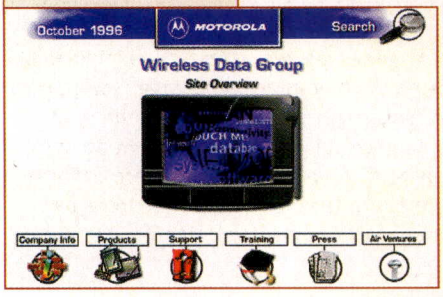
(http://www.mot.com)

Large electronics giant producing wireless communicators.

Not only are Motorola involved in the new technology of cable modems, they are also firmly in the market of wireless communicators, modems, PCMICA cards and mobile phones. But of most interest, are the communicators which they have two of – the Envoy and the Macro.

With these you can send and receive faxes, access Internet services, databases or information without a normal phone line or an extra modem. Although not currently available in this country, it won't be long before they hit our shores. In the meantime there is a lot of information on this site about the new communicators and we strongly recommend you check this out because these hand held, glorified personal organisers could be in everybody's pockets within a few years.

Get email, faxes and the WWW whilst on the move.



The Envoy is just one of their products.

envoy
WIRELESS COMMUNICATOR

The Envoy Wireless Communicator from Motorola is a revolutionary organization and communication tool for on-the-go business professionals who need to access and share information wherever and whenever.

impossible to change them. But, this shouldn't be much of a problem as both these parts of a system, on most Macs, will be adequate for the foreseeable future.

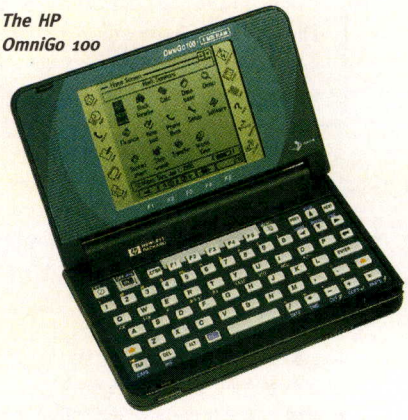
PCs, on the other hand, are more confusing when it comes to purchasing. The number of different configurations you can have is, at times, boggling and it can be a tiresome chore finding out just what you need. Most 486 and Pentium packages will already have a decent graphics and audio card included and will come with enough memory (don't stand for less than 8Mb, but check out different suppliers as you might be able to find a similarmachine with 16Mb of memory for around the same price) for all the Internet applications you could want to run at the moment. The best point in favour of the PC though is that they are simply a large jigsaw puzzle, with many different pieces that'll fit in the same place. In general this makes PCs more future proof than even a Mac, but unless you're prepared to get your hands dirty, by taking the top off your machine to fit new bits in, steer well clear.

And this raises the biggest point of all. Even though I use PCs, and have done for many years, I've got to admit that they aren't the easiest machines in the world for non-technical people to get to grips with. This has been made slightly easier

Other Mobile Internet Access / PDA Systems

HP OmniGo 100 - http://www.grot.com/zoomer/
World Of Newton - http://newton.info.apple.com/newton/
Psion PLC - http://www.psion.com/

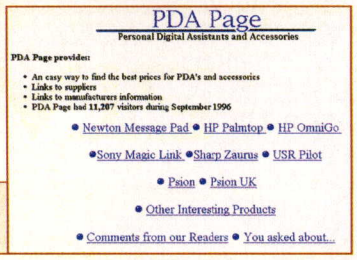
The HP OmniGo 100



The PDA Page

(http://www.pdapage.com/)

This site has plenty of links to producers and other sites for PDAs and accessories you can buy for them. You will definitely be able to find anything to do with PDAs from this page.



PDA Page
Personal Digital Assistants and Accessories

PDA Page provides:

- An easy way to find the best prices for PDA's and accessories
- Links to suppliers
- Links to manufacturers information
- PDA Page had 11,207 visitors during September 1996

Newton Message Pad • HP Palmtop • HP OmniGo
Sony Magic Link • Sharp Zaurus • USR Pilot
Psion • Psion UK
Other Interesting Products
Comments from our Readers • You asked about...

The PDA Page – All you need to know about PDAs.

Teknema (http://www.teknema.com/)

Teknema are currently producing two Internet access products – the Easy Rider Internet Appliance and, with a licensing deal with Daewoo (yes, the car makers), a range of set top boxes.

The Easy Rider is essentially a network computer that can fully access the Internet. The system is much cheaper than a conventional multimedia PC, but has no operating system or hard disk, instead using a Web browser as the main operating system.

Their set top boxes, on the other hand, connect to a normal television and again are all based around a Web browser. But this is where fears are raised about straying from the Netscape / Microsoft fold. By using their own Web browser, called TIBER (the Teknema Internet BrowsER), and not adopting Navigator or Explorer, they may run into difficulty as a standard is created for new methods of using the Internet. They could well face not having a compliant, or at least not having the latest Web technology, in their system. Images of VHS and BetaMax wars readily spring to mind.

Newsgroups for PDAs and Hand Held Communicators

For more information on this new area of Internet access, subscribe to one of the following Usenet news groups:

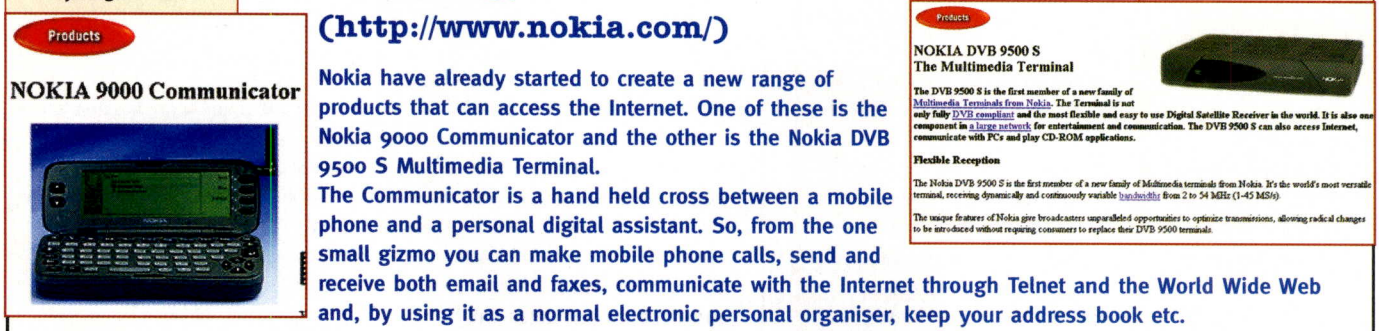
clari.nb.pda
comp.sys.handhelds
comp.sys.palmtops
comp.sys.pen

Nokia 9000 communicator, everything in one!

Nokia

(http://www.nokia.com/)

Nokia's multimedia set top box.



Nokia have already started to create a new range of products that can access the Internet. One of these is the Nokia 9000 Communicator and the other is the Nokia DVB 9500 S Multimedia Terminal.

The Communicator is a hand held cross between a mobile phone and a personal digital assistant. So, from the one small gizmo you can make mobile phone calls, send and receive both email and faxes, communicate with the Internet through Telnet and the World Wide Web and, by using it as a normal electronic personal organiser, keep your address book etc.

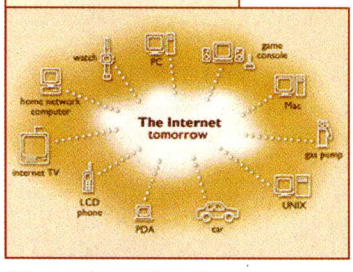
The 9500 S Multimedia Terminal, on the other hand, is a multi function box that connects to your television. It's a satellite receiver, provides access to the Internet, and can communicate with your home PC and play CD-ROM software. With products like this it will soon be possible to have everything coming through you television, making the home computer a thing of the past.

Navio

(http://www.navio.com/)

Navio is a new company that has been created by the Internet might of Netscape (responsible for the Navigator World Wide Web browser). Sticking to the formula of creating browser software, Navio takes this and launches it into a whole new arena. Basically the aim of Navio is to create Navigator based software that will work on a number of new products, including the new generation of set top boxes, games consoles and Personal Digital Assistants. There's even talk of going as far as including Internet access directly onto telephones! This all goes to creating a vision of the future where almost every electrical appliance will be Internet compliant, a mind boggling and exciting thought for us all.

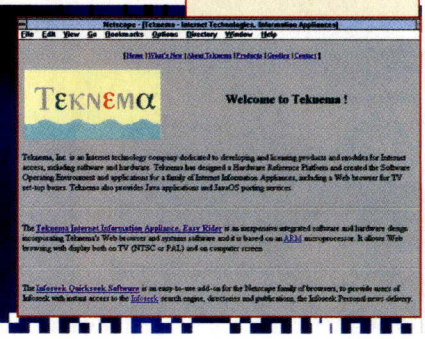
A strong vision of the future.



Although much of this is still in the words rather than action stage, understandably as Navio is only a new company and these products will take time to develop, many major companies such as Sony, IBM and NEC have already approached them in the aim of working with them in creating such appliances and applications for the future.

Navio couldn't have started at a better time, with all the hype and talk of new products and methods of accessing the Internet. In order for all this to succeed and remain viable a framework or standard is needed and Navio will now no doubt be the engineers of that framework, creating one standard which aims to reach a user base of 500 million by the year 2000.

Using their own browser software.



with the advent of Windows 95, which features a 'plug and play' system which means that in an ideal world, you plug in your new graphics card, turn your machine on and everything installs automatically. But in the real world, it doesn't always happen that smoothly. So Macs are definitely the easier to use, just turn them on and for the most part you can forget about what's happening inside.

A New Wave Of Access

1997 will see a plethora of new ways to connect to the Internet. They are already starting to appear in the form of hand held communicators and set top boxes that work with your television, combining all your entertainment and surfing into one box. Probably by the end of next year (yes, we're not talking five years away here) your games console, your electronic personal organiser and even your car could all be equipped to surf the Internet. The principles have already been established and, now large players such as Netscape (see the box out on Navio) are working to develop these new systems, there should be solid, reliable implementations in place soon.

The interesting thing with set top boxes, however, isn't just confined to the promise of Internet access without a computer. If you've read the article on the Net's infrastructure you'll realise that Cable companies have already got the means to give large volume connections to households, and the future could mean using a set top box to watch films, interact with your television and browse CD-ROM archives all through the Internet. The limitations on these possibilities is almost infinite.

But rather than jump on the heated band wagon that is currently doing the rounds, it might be best to wait. This is all fairly new technology and, although you can already purchase such systems, as with all new technology the first models may have bugs and in six months time might not be supported by the Internet mainstream. Of course, nothing can be totally future proofed, but in such a volatile market it's probably best to hang on at least until the new year before you make any large purchases.

Other Mobile Access Resources To Try

Andrew Seybold's Outlook on Mobile Computing and Communications - http://www.outlook.com/

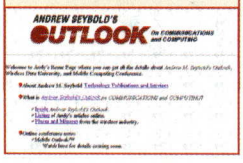
Mobile Planet - http://www.mplanet.com/

All you need to know about mobile computing.

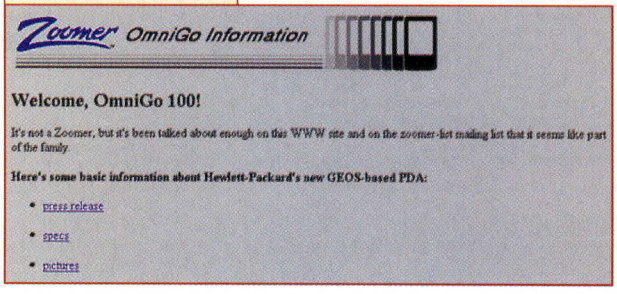
Choosing A Provider For Mobile Access

This is a large area of change at present, but some ISPs, such as Demon Internet (http://www.demon.net/), charge no extra for offering an infrastructure capable of handling mobile phones – with Demon it's all included in the standard dial-up account. Expect more and more ISPs to operate in this way in the near future.

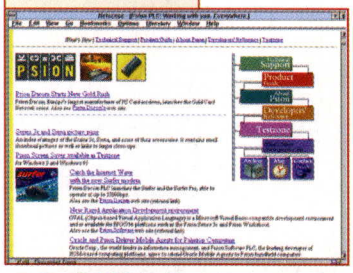
Mobile computing is a hot Net topic at the moment.



Many people are producing hand held communicators.


Zoomer OmniGo Information
Welcome, OmniGo 100!
It's not a Zoomer, but it's been talked about enough on the WWW site and on the zoomer-list mailing list that it seems like part of the family.
Here's some basic information about Hewlett-Packard's new GEOS-based PDA:
press release
specs
pictures

Hand held communication product ideas.



Mobile Internet Access

Connecting to the Internet through a mobile phone has, in recent months, become a much less painful experience and a much less expensive one. There are now dedicated services especially for mobile phone users being offered by many of the major Internet Service Providers that make access a breeze.

Although modem speeds over a mobile phone are still not very fast, which is mainly due to the development of better PCMICA Fax/Modem mobile phone cards (these are not the same as normal modem cards, and each mobile phone will have its own card that you will have to use) as used on portables, typically you can expect speeds of 9,600bps or, on the new range of cards which are starting to appear now, 14.4kbps. This is starting to make it more than feasible to use your mobile access not just for email, but for surfing the World Wide Web as well.

Bear in mind though that some mobile phones don't currently have modem cards available for them and not all ISPs will handle all the mobile phone networks. Unfortunately this is going to mean a little research on your part if you're seriously interested in mobile Internet access. And remember that there are a new wave of hand held communicators on the market (see the box out on Nokia for information on what is probably the most exciting one around at the moment) and these all have Internet access. Rather than spending the money on a new digital phone and a modem card suitable for it, it might be cheaper to go for one of these communicators as they are already available.

Get Connected

At first glance it seems that anything can be connected to the Internet and although this article has concentrated on Macs, PCs and the new range of 'communicators', it is still more than possible to connect an Amiga or an Atari onto the Internet. However, as the complexity of the Internet increases, the demands placed upon users' hardware also increases, to the point where some options, such as older computers, just aren't viable any more. The new wave of World Wide Web browsers are a case in point. With the arrival of these, the minimum system requirements have definitely risen and, although they will run on a machine with as little as 4mb of memory, to get adequate functionality from them you're looking at needing 8Mb or even 16Mb.

On the other hand, Internet access will, over the coming year, become less of a home computer issue. The new range of set top boxes and other specialist gadgets such as PDAs will mean that people won't just be getting their Internet access from their Mac or PC, but will probably be using their television set with a set-top box running Netscape. It seems that as time goes by, the line between computers and the Internet will blur. In the future you'll be using something almost totally removed from the humble home computer to surf the electronic wave. It's an exciting thought.

Mobile phone resource site.

Global Media Communications

(http://www.globalmedia.co.uk/)

This is a very useful site if you're interested in finding out more about mobile communications and accessing the Internet through them. It contains many links to many different types of company, all working in and around the mobile phone industry.

Mobile Phone Companies On The Net

If you want to find out more about mobile phones and what you'll need to connect them to the Internet then try some of the following mobile phone companies:

Vodaphone - **http://www.vodaphone.co.uk/**
Cellnet - **http://cellnet.co.uk/**
Mercury One 2 One - **http://www.one2one.co.uk/**
Nokia - **http://www.nokia.com/**
Motorola - **http://www.motorola.com/**
Ericsson - **http://www.ericsson.com/**
NEC - **http://www.nec.com/**
Orange - **http://www.orange.co.uk/**
OKI - **http://www.oki.com/okitelecom.html**
At&T - **http://www.att.com/**
Sony - **http://www.sony.com/**

Rapide Online

- Links
- News
- Latest Rapide Magazines
- Updates
- Features and Articles

If you're looking for an insight into Britains brightest Independent publisher, then come to Rapide Publishing's Web pages. Packed with the latest news, links to the best sites and plenty of information on Total Internet and other Rapide products, it's an essential place to visit!

http://www.rapide.co.uk

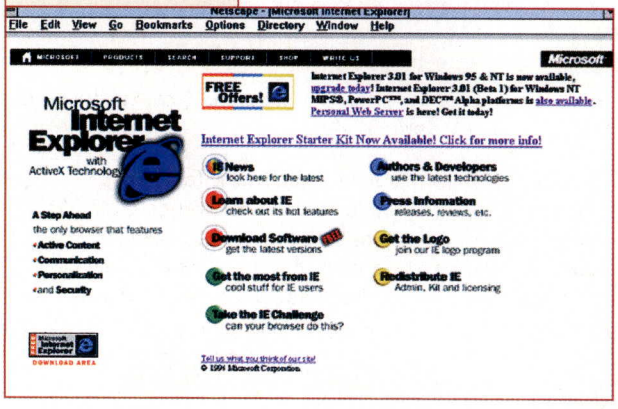
TOTAL internet

Software Access all Areas

We conclude our study of the Net by focusing on the applications you need to get it all going. From browsers to future developments we dissect the essential Net

Once you're connected to the Internet you're going to need some software in order to access it. If you've signed up through an Internet Service Provider (that should cover just about all of you) they will provide a start-up system that you either download from their site or receive on disk.

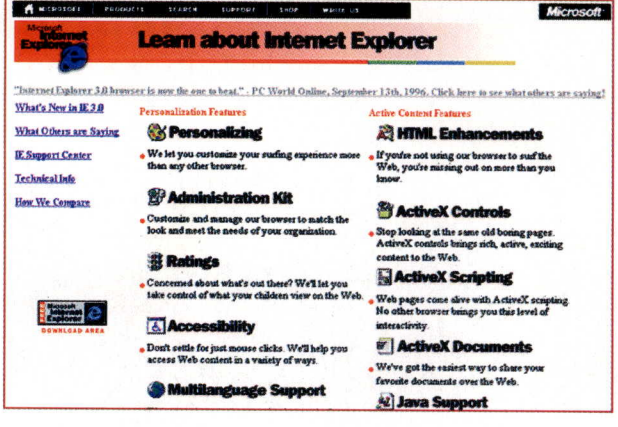
Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0


Netscape - [Microsoft Internet Explorer]
File Edit View Go Bookmarks Options Directory Window Help
Microsoft
Microsoft Internet Explorer with ActiveX Technologies
FREE Offers!
Internet Explorer 3.01 for Windows 95 & NT is now available, upgrade today! Internet Explorer 3.01 (Beta 1) for Windows NT MIPS®, PowerPC™, and DEC™ Alpha platforms is also available. Personal Web Server is here! Get it today!
Internet Explorer Starter Kit Now Available! Click for more info!
A Step Ahead
the only browser that features
•Active Content
•Communication
•Personalization
•and Security
News look here for the latest
Learn about IE check out its hot features
Download Software get the latest versions
Get the most from IE cool stuff for IE users
Take the IE Challenge can your browser do this?
Authors & Developers use the latest technologies
Press Information releases, reviews, etc.
Get the Logo join our IE logo program
Redistribute IE Admin. Kit and licensing
Tell us what you think of our site!
© 1996 Microsoft Corporation.

This will, at least, cover your email and newsgroup access, but will probably also include other software, such as an FTP (File Transfer Protocol) client and maybe even a World Wide Web browser. The software for email and news should be more than adequate from your service provider – many will probably give you Eudora Light which is just about the best and most user friendly email software around. You could even use Netscape or Internet Explorer to read both your news and email, as both now have high functionality in this area, including the automatic decoding of embedded files in an email, meaning that, if somebody sends you a gif file, it will appear in your browser not as a mass of encoded numbers, but as a picture image.

In this section of our special report we'll be taking a look at World Wide Web browsers, the plug-ins you can use with them, cool sites that do something that little bit different, user agents, search engines, spiders and finally, wrapping it all up, we'll analyse how the software used to access the Internet will develop over time.

There are many advanced features in version 3.0

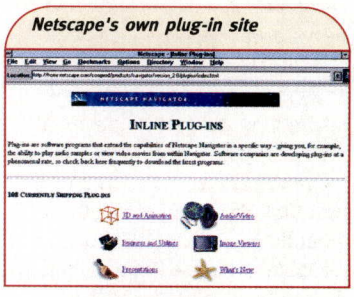

Microsoft
Learn about Internet Explorer
"Internet Explorer 3.0 browser is now the one to beat." - PC World Online, September 13th, 1996. Click here to see what others are saying!
What's New in IE 3.0
What Others are Saying
IE Support Center
Technical Info
How We Compare
Personalization Features
Personalizing
We let you customize your surfing experience more than any other browser.
Administration Kit
Customize and manage our browser to match the look and meet the needs of your organization.
Ratings
Concerned about what's out there? We'll let you take control of what your children view on the Web.
Accessibility
Don't settle for just mouse clicks. We'll help you access Web content in a variety of ways.
Multilanguage Support
Active Content Features
HTML Enhancements
If you're not using our browser to surf the Web, you're missing out on more than you know.
ActiveX Controls
Stop looking at the same old boring pages. ActiveX controls brings rich, active, exciting content to the Web.
ActiveX Scripting
Web pages come alive with ActiveX scripting. No other browser brings you this level of interactivity.
ActiveX Documents
We've got the easiest way to share your favorite documents over the Web.
Java Support

Browser Wars

These days there are only really two browsers for the World Wide Web that are worth using, one of which is Netscape's Navigator, **http://home.netscape.com/**, the other being Microsoft's Internet Explorer, **http://www.microsoft.com/ie/**. Both of these are currently on version 3.0 and, whilst Navigator is being used by many more people than Explorer, it's not really due to a lack of functionality on Microsoft's part. So what's the big difference between them? Well, not a hell of a lot really. They both get packaged with different extras, Navigator has CoolTalk, an online Internet telephone, and Explorer has extras such as TrueSpeech (like Real Audio).

In terms of look and feel they're both pretty much of a muchness, with no great difference between their separate operations. However, Explorer does add some extra HTML tags and some extra Java script functionality, but these aren't supported by Navigator and, as Navigator has the lion's share of

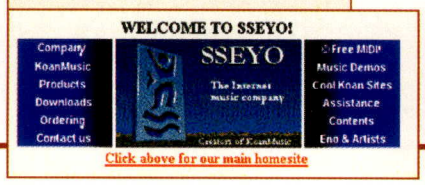
Netscape's own plug-in site



the market, I'm not sure what use these are going to be for the main stream.

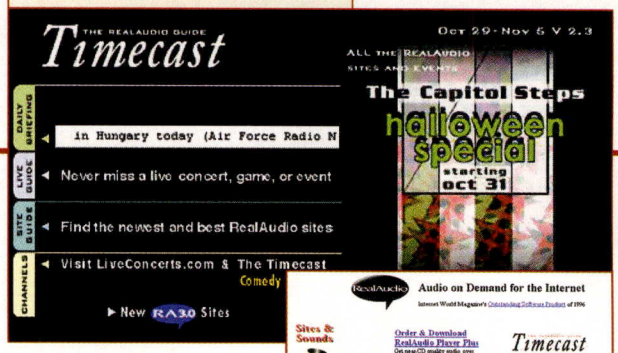
The only place where Explorer really is different from Navigator is in its use of ActiveX technology, whereby you can basically use anything as a plug-in and create more interactive sites than you can in Navigator. Also, Explorer already has a censorship system built in, based on ratings. Of course, this depends on all site authors putting a rating on their site, but some are already catching on. Basically, if you've got little children this could be a reason for choosing the Explorer option rather than Navigator.

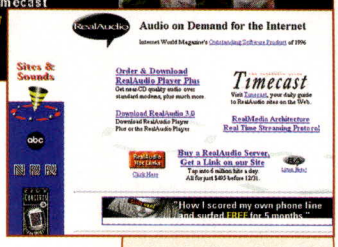
However, at the end of the day



Evolving music in your browser

The multimedia market leader




RealAudio
Audio on Demand for the Internet
Sites & Sounds
Order & Download RealAudio Player Plus
Timecast
Download RealAudio 3.0
RealMedia Architecture
Real Time Streaming Protocol
Buy a RealAudio Server, Get a Link on our Site
How I scored my own phone line and surfed FREE for 5 months

Real Audio showcase and guide

Leader in real time audio over the Net

Navigator is the more established standard, so unless you need the extra functionality that Explorer can offer in some areas, stick with Navigator for now.

Netscape's Navigator - **http://home.netscape.com/**

Microsoft's Internet Explorer - **http://www.microsoft.com/ie/**

Plug-Ins

The amount of plug-ins available is quite staggering

Although browsers are mighty pieces of software on their own, there's always more that people want to do on their Web sites. If all of this extra power was to be included in standard versions of browsers, you'd be downloading about 20mb files rather than the 5mb that Netscape, for instance, currently is. The range of plug-ins available, seems infinite at times, but the best thing is that the majority of them are completely free for you to download and use.

You'll find plug-ins for 3D animation, video, audio, business, music etc. and, although there are some definite market leaders in the plug-in business, some of the less supported are often just as good or even better. Try some of the plug-ins that listed here, as they are some of the best currently around. But don't think this is a definitive list, because it's nowhere near. If you're looking for sites to try out your new plug-ins on, then each of these sites carries links to others that use their system.

Cyberage Raider

(http://www.miint.net/cyberage/)

Cyberage Raider is a plug-in that provides a 3D interface for navigating the World Wide Web. Its best feature, however, is that it has got a built-in query search, for virtually any search engine, to make everything a lot easier. It's great for Net beginners, but has enough in the way of functionality for experienced users not to feel held back.

Browse in 3D

Futuresplash by Futurewave

(http://www.futurewave.com/)

Futuresplash is a vector based animation plug-in that uses advanced compression techniques to provide real time updating, the creators of the plug-in reckon that even over a 14.4k modem you should get pretty smooth updates. The plug-in has full zoom control, anti-aliasing and outline fonts support.

Jutvision by Visual Dynamics

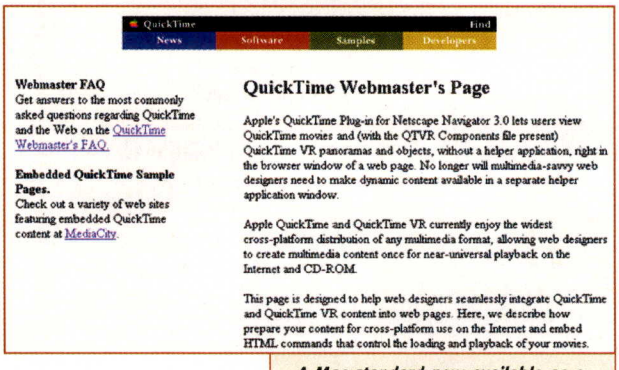
(http://www.visdyn.com)

This is another 3D animation plug-in that allows 360 degree rotation around panoramic images, with full perspective and zooming. It's one of the more advanced 3D systems around and there are plenty of complex worlds on the site that you can play with. If you've got a fast enough machine we would recommend you check this one out.

Live 3D by Netscape

(http://home.netscape.com/comprod/products/navigator/live3d/index.html)

The Virtual Reality Modelling Language (or VRML) standard is taking a while to develop properly, but this plug-in for Netscape is one of the better browsers around. Fully compliant with the latest VRML standard you should be able to check out the mass of worlds that are starting to appear, if you're machine is up to spec!


QuickTime
Find
News
Software
Samples
Developers
Webmaster FAQ
Get answers to the most commonly asked questions regarding QuickTime and the Web on the QuickTime Webmaster's FAQ.
Embedded QuickTime Sample Pages.
Check out a variety of web sites featuring embedded QuickTime content at MediaCity.
QuickTime Webmaster's Page
Apple's QuickTime Plug-in for Netscape Navigator 3.0 lets users view QuickTime movies and (with the QTVR Components file present) QuickTime VR panoramas and objects, without a helper application, right in the browser window of a web page. No longer will multimedia-savvy web designers need to make dynamic content available in a separate helper application window.
Apple QuickTime and QuickTime VR currently enjoy the widest cross-platform distribution of any multimedia format, allowing web designers to create multimedia content once for near-universal playback on the Internet and CD-ROM.
This page is designed to help web designers seamlessly integrate QuickTime and QuickTime VR content into web pages. Here, we describe how prepare your content for cross-platform use on the Internet and embed HTML commands that control the loading and playback of your movies.

A Mac standard now available as a plug-in

The Plug-In Dilemma

There are many plug-ins that all do the same jobs, unfortunately, and it can, at times, seem like a waste of time downloading a plug-in that you've only seen used on one site. Take the realm of real-time audio over the Internet for instance. There are at least three systems of this, Real Audio, True Speech and Echo Speech, and there are probably more out there somewhere. Real Audio is the most used, without a doubt, but Microsoft have bundled True Speech in their latest browser release, so you're probably going to need both as, without a doubt, many more sites will start using this system in the near future. The best advice is to be careful or you could end up spending 90% of your online time downloading plug-ins!

Plug-In Index Sites

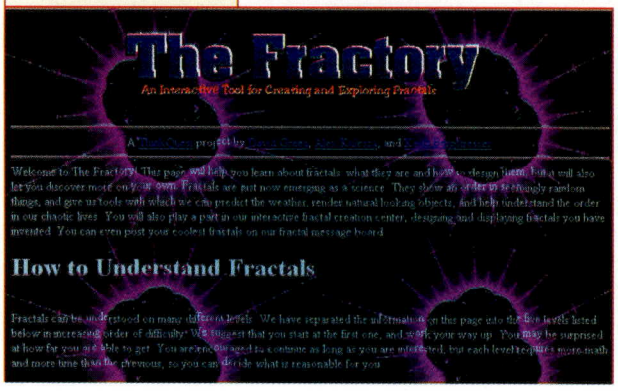
If you want to find out what other plug-ins are available then check out the following sites:
Macintosh Plug-Ins - http://home.pacific.net.sg/~hattrick/
Plug-In Gallery & Demo Links - http://www2.gol.com/users/oyamada/
Netscape's Plug-In Index - http://home.netscape.com/comprod/products/navigator/version_2.0/plugins/index.html

Shockwave by Macromedia

(http://www.macromedia.com/)

Shockwave is probably the most well known of all the plug-ins. It provides a multimedia environment on a World Wide Web page that can be interacted with, and can handle audio, video and animation. It's probably the best multimedia plug-in currently available and as many sites are using it now, if you're only going to download one plug-in, this should probably be it.

Interactively create fractals from here.



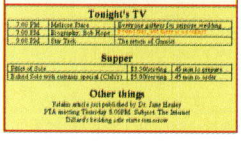
"Shockwave – If you're only going to download one plug-in this should be it"

Apple Quicktime

(http://www.quickTime.com/dev/devweb.html)

Quicktime is something of a standard on the Macintosh and this plug-in, which is available for most platforms including the PC, allows Quicktime animation, music, MIDI, audio and video files to be embedded onto World Wide Web pages. Now that support is universal, expect many more sites to start using the system.

Agents can be used to personalise your Net searching efforts.



Real Audio by Progressive

(http://www.realaudio.com/)

Real Audio is *the* standard for real time audio over the Internet. If you're running on a fast enough system, with a decent connection you can now get CD quality stereo. However, for most users, this probably isn't a reality. Even so, you'll be able to get pretty good quality sound over even a 14.4k connection. Some large sites are also offering dedicated real audio server lines, so that an uninterrupted flow can be achieved and, once these become more widespread, listening to music over the Internet will become a reality for all. Also, check out the Timecast site, **http://www.timecast.com/**, a daily guide to what sites are using Real Audio!

Koan Plug-In by SSeyo

(http://www.sseyo.com/)

Many of you will probably have heard of Koan before. Koan is a music system for creating ever changing ambient and techno tunes. From simple starting points and parameters, a file can play for over eight hours, ever changing and ever evolving. Now, you can get a plug-in for your browser allowing people to embed Koan files onto their pages, giving you a theme tune to your surfing. The best thing about Koan is that the files are very small, because there is little inherent structure. Each time you play a Koan tracks it's never the same as the last time!

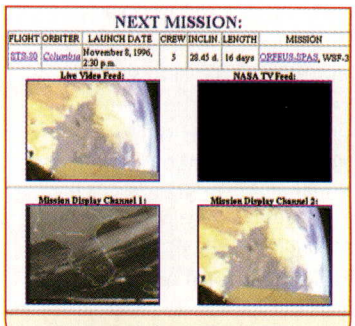
Artificial Life on the Internet.

Cool Sites: Software

Surfing the World Wide Web these days isn't just a matter of sifting through text with a few pretty (or not so pretty) pictures scattered throughout. Nowadays there's much more that you can do and many more ways in which you can interact with a site. There are sites with live online cameras, grabbing pictures as soon as you enter the site, there are interactive games online or you can play at being God and have an online Internet pet. Below are some of the best I've found, although, as is always the case, there are far more out there if you take the time to surf.

NASA Live Cams And Mission Displays

(http://204.97.92.3/~brickman/nasacams.html)


NEXT MISSION:
FLIGHT ORBITER LAUNCH DATE CREW INCLIN LENGTH MISSION
Live Video Feed:
NASA TV Feed:
Mission Display Channel 1:
Mission Display Channel 2:

NASA live camera broadcasts.

If you want to see exactly what NASA Mission Control are seeing at the moment then check out this site. There are about eight views, all grabbed as soon as you enter the page, so it can take a while to download. No doubt the conspiracy theorists among you will think it's all a front.

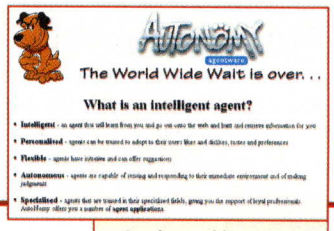
ALife Garden

(http://www.cisnet.or.jp/~alifeg/)

Modelling life through artificial intelligence has always been a big

Autonomy (http://www.agentware.com/)

This is one of the most well known of the current wave of agents. With Autonomy you can perform off line searching by sending your agent off to a 'kennel' and when you log back on you can access the 'kennel' to see what it has found. Autonomy goes even further though and being intelligent (I use the phrase loosely here) it can actually suggest other areas to search, based on the information given.



Good searching agent

area of study and research. This site provides one of the most advanced systems I've ever come across (and I've studied the subject as well!). The ALife Cyber-Pet system has around 500 creatures in it, all of which have around 50kb of DNA information. They can eat, drink, move, bear children, evolve and die. You can name your own creature in the system and keep a track on its progress. The only problem is it's so addictive you can really get involved in this site.

The Fractory

(http://tqd.advanced.org/3288/)

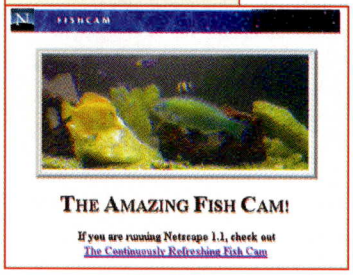
The Fractory, as well as being a great information source on everything fractal, provides a way of creating your own fractals online using the interactive features provided on the site.

Continually Refreshing Fish Cam

(http://www.netscape.com/fishcam/)

Can't be bothered to keep your own aquarium? Well fear not, the good people from Netscape have provided an online Web cam aquarium, so the action is captured as it happens and is transmitted directly to your screen. As the site suggests, it continually refreshes, so there's no need to keep on hitting the reload button. If this isn't enough, there are plenty more online aquariums to check out.

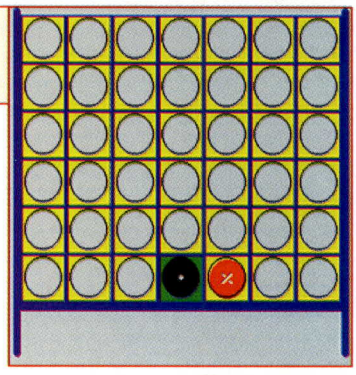
Netscape's own fish cam - relaxing? Well, maybe...



Connect 4

(http://csugrad.cs.ut.edu/htbin/Connect4.perl)

Connect 4 on the Internet - whatever next?



This is a great online version of *Connect 4* (there are plenty of others out there as well), providing both a graphics and no graphics version. It's simply displayed and fast to play.

Castle Infinity

(http://www.castleinfinity.com/)

Multi-player adventure games are all the rage on the Internet at the moment (if you've got a copy of *Doom's* latest incarnation, *Quake*, you can play that online with other users) and *Castle Infinity* is one of the best out there. You have to download the software from the site for a demo (it does cost to get the full version), but once you're in you can give the baddies a good bashing. Check out the Internet Games section of Yahoo for more information.

Search Engines

On-line multi user gaming.

The basic way of finding anything on the Internet is by using a search engine, of which there are many, with more and more appearing all the time. Some can be a pain to use but their power is undeniable and they should really be your first port of call, if you're looking for anything (especially if it's something that's on the World Wide Web).

Most search engines have a box to type in some key words on the main page and for this the basic search options are set. But, if you can't easily get what you're after (sometimes you'll just be presented with far too many links and you need to cut them down), go to the site's more advanced search tool, where you will be able to set many options yourself. However useful the big search engines such as Lycos and Yahoo are, try some of the smaller ones, or some of the less well known. Not all sites list everything that is on offer, remember what a vast resource the Net is, and a lot depends on who has submitted their links to which search engines.

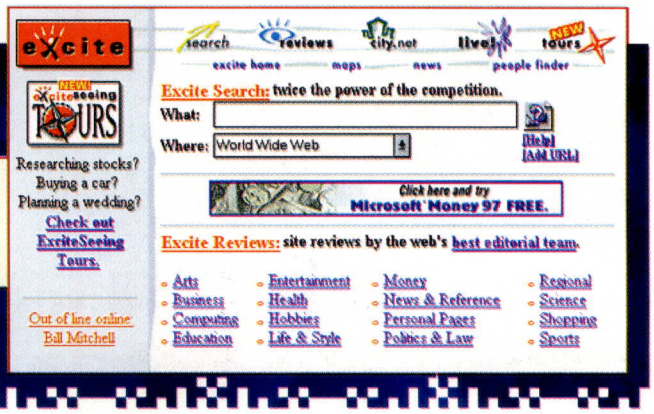
Need More Cool Sites?

If you want to find more sites in a similar vein to the ones mentioned, check out Yahoo's section on interesting devices which can be found at http://www.yahoo.com/Computers_and_Internet/Internet/Entertainment/Interesting_Devices_Connected_To_The_Net/ or try their Internet gaming section at http://www.yahoo.com/Recreation/Games/Internet_Games/

Search Engine Links

Yahoo - http://www.yahoo.com/
Yahoo UK and Ireland - http://www.yahoo.co.uk/
Lycos - http://www.lycos.com/
Excite - http://www.excite.com/
Webcrawler - http://info.webcrawler.com/
Infoseek - http://www2.infoseek.com/
EINet Galazy - http://www.einet.com/
Dejanews - http://www.dejanews.com/
(Especially for searching out newsgroups!)
Four11 - http://www.four11.com/ (For finding email addresses)

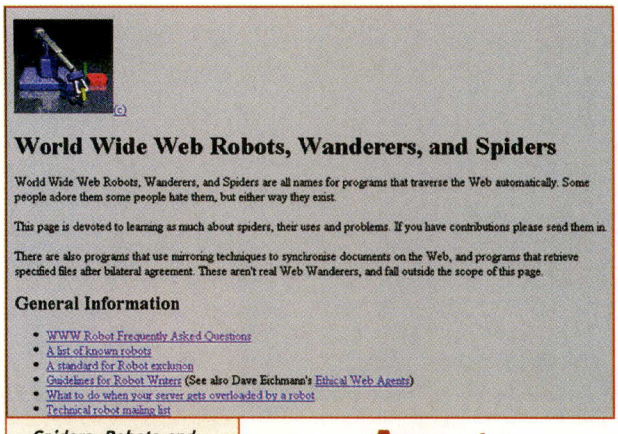
Just one of the many search engines on offer to you.



Websprite (http://www.dvorak.com/)

Again, this is an intelligent agent, but its main use is in accessing weather, business and associated information. Websprite is basically an online agent, running in a window on your screen, and constantly updating you with new information as and when it finds it. So, if you spend a lot of time online it could be worth your while using it to keep up to date on news and other information.

Presenting up to date information without the hassle.



World Wide Web Robots, Wanderers, and Spiders

World Wide Web Robots, Wanderers, and Spiders are all names for programs that traverse the Web automatically. Some people adore them some people hate them, but either way they exist.

This page is devoted to learning as much about spiders, their uses and problems. If you have contributions please send them in.

There are also programs that use mirroring techniques to synchronise documents on the Web, and programs that retrieve specified files after bilateral agreement. These aren't real Web Wanderers, and fall outside the scope of this page.

General Information

- WWW Robot Frequently Asked Questions
- A list of known robots
- A standard for Robot exclusion
- Guidelines for Robot Writers (See also Dave Eichmann's Ethical Web Agents)
- What to do when your server gets overloaded by a robot
- Technical robot mailing list

Spiders, Robots and Wanderers - all you need to know

Agents

Sometimes search engines aren't much use or present too much information. Don't worry, however, as there are some new agents around that make searching the Internet a fairly painless task. What exactly is an agent? Well at its simplest, you give an agent an idea of the type of sites or topics to find information on and the agent will go away, search the Net and come back with a list of possibilities. But that's not the whole story. Agents can be trained so that the more you use them, the more they'll come back with relevant sites, rather than ones which might have some lateral connection. With some agents, all this searching can be done while you're offline and the next time you log on the agent reports back with the results.

All in all, agents are a much more intuitive way of searching the Internet. Of course, the first time you use a particular agent you'll probably be presented with a long list of possibilities, many of which won't fit in with your criteria very well. But, with clever use of searching options and repeated use they are much better for finding relevant sites. Best of all, most agents are either free or have evaluation copies to download for a limited period.

Spiders

A spider is a piece of software that traverses through sites, checking what it finds against a list of criteria, such as search words. Once they reach a site they check out all the links, following each one until they reach a conclusion. Quite a few search engines use spiders to collate their site database, such as Webcrawler for instance.

Spiders (also called Robots and Wanderers) can, however, take a long time to perform their search, as they are basically searching the whole of the Internet. However, if you can handle being prompted with hundreds and hundreds of links try and find out more.

The next generation

The software used to access the Internet is increasing in functionality by the day, meaning it's easier to access the Net and the sites you visit offer far more than even just a year ago. When World Wide Web browsers first appeared, there was very little you could do with them. Most didn't have any graphics support, so you just had massive amounts of text data. Now we're heading towards a time when a browser is the only software you'll need. It can handle your email, your news, your information gathering, your searching and it can do all this in multimedia, mixing graphics, sound and video together.

Perhaps the biggest change in the browsers has only really been noticed in the past year. Now you can using the likes of Java and JavaScript. This extends the possibilities beyond just what can be achieved with plug-ins. We're finally going away from the operating system dependency.

Where does the future lie? It all depends on how many of the large players pull together. If they don't, and there are already signs of a split, then there will always be two or more non-compatible Net systems. However, if they do then it won't make a difference if you're using a Mac, a PC or a Unix box to access the Internet – they'll all be based around the same World Wide Web browser.

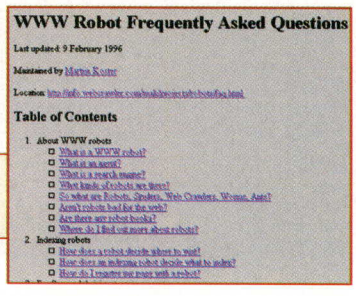
Spiders More Information

Webcrawler have quite a lot of information on their site about spiders, robots and wanderers, and the following two links should be especially useful:

Robot Frequently Asked Questions - **http://info.webcrawler.com/mak/projects/robots/faq.html**

World Wide Web Robots, Wanderers Spiders - **http://info.webcrawler.com/mak/projects/robots/robots.html**

Get your spider questions answered



WWW Robot Frequently Asked Questions

Last updated: 9 February 1996

Maintained by Martin Koster

Location: http://info.webcrawler.com/mak/projects/robots/faq.html

Table of Contents

1. About WWW robots
   - What is a WWW robot?
   - What is an agent?
   - What is a search engine?
   - What kinds of robots are there?
   - So what are Robots, Spiders, Web Crawlers, Worms, Ants?
   - Aren't robots bad for the web?
   - Are there any robot books?
   - Where do I find out more about robots?
2. Indexing robots
   - How does a robot decide where to visit?
   - How does an indexing robot decide what to index?
   - How do I prevent my pages being indexed?

Microsoft's Technology

Microsoft made a big impression when they first released the Internet Explorer. Now they've got a share of the browser market, there are signs they are trying to turn the focus of development onto themselves, rather than working towards a common goal with the other major players. Java holds the key to shared applications running on any platform, but obviously Microsoft have other ideas. By releasing a range of PC only Java add-ons and with their investment in creating Visual J++, they are hoping to push development towards their own operating system, namely Windows. By creating PC only functionality within Java, the prospect of shared applications is a myth.

Shareware.com (http://www.shareware.com/)

If you're looking for some free software off the Net then this is definitely the best place to try. You'll find it easy to search for what you're looking for and full descriptions, and a choice of download sites, are given for each entry in the database. If it's shareware and it's on the Net then it's bound to be listed here.

FREE MEGA TIPS BOOK WITH THIS ISSUE!

December 1996 · Issue 36 · £4.99

PC Power

SkyNET

The **sequel** to **Terminator: Future Shock explodes** onto **your PC!**

Creatures

Create new **life** on **your own PC**

INSIDE!

- **iMIA2 Abrams** - the **future** of **computer tank warfare.**

REVIEWED!

- **Blam!** Machinehead
- **Discworld 2** with **FREE** screen**saver!**
- **Screamer** 2
- **Archimedean** Dynasty
- **Pyst**

plus many more!

Coverdisc or tips book missing? See your newsagent!

Your **definitive** monthly guide to **PC gaming!**

RAPIDE PUBLISHING

9 771352 789011 12

The Web Guide

Welcome to the biggest listings section in any monthly magazine, with over 60 pages of Web site reviews. There's something for everybody, from UFOs to football, software resources to online literature. The only place to start your Cybersurfing...

The TV section is packed with top sites.

Entertainment

The entertainment section is packed to bursting this month with a host of fun and fact packed sites...

36 Entertainment Today
38 Film
40 Television
46 Music

Entertainment sites for all tastes are on offer.

Burn rubber with our motor sports guide.

Sport

Whether you like playing, watching or reading about Britain's favourite sports, you'll find them here...

50 This Sporting Life
52 Football
56 Motor Racing
58 American Sports

If you're looking for resources start here.

Resources

It's true that the whole Net is a resource, but in this section we look at ways to make the best use of that resource...

60 Resources
62 Literature
64 Software
66 Education
68 Finance

Paranormal buffs are in for a treat.

Weird

It's spooky and it's kooky, so it's bound to be here. From paranormal to pointless, seeing is believing...

70 Tales of the Unexpected
72 Paranormal
76 Myths and Legends
80 Bizarre

The Total Team

Sean Clark - Sean Clark is a professional web designer with Headland Multimedia, with over seven years experience and clients including The Shamen, artist William Latham, plus various television companies.

Simon Lovell - An experienced Internet journalist, who has work for a string of other Internet titles to his credit. He knows his stuff and understands what makes a good Web Page.

David Ireland - Has worked on a host of leisure titles and is currently locked away working on a top secret music publication. However, he still found time to write the Entertainment section.

Gary Joyce - Has spent his working life surrounded by the latest technology. He's an Internet junkie, with a professional knowledge of and love for the resource.

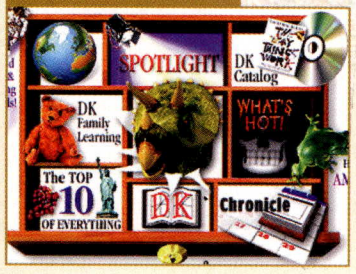
@ Attitude

This is the section that covers your obsessions. This month ravers, game's addicts and comic buffs are sorted...

82 Wired for Fun
84 Club Culture
88 Video Games
92 Net Games
94 Comics

There's a video games bonanza on page 88.

Check out all the top sites on offer.



The Essential Directory

An at a glance guide to the sites we feel will get you where you want to go. Simply the best.

98 The Directory

Welcome to BarclaySquare, the leading UK shopping mall.
Visit major High Street retailers and specialist on-line shops. Buy from a wide range of goods & services...securely and with confidence. To go shopping...just click on the logo
BARCLAY
SQUARE
SHOPPING
CENTRE MANAGEMENT
CUSTOMER SERVICES
FEEDBACK
NEWS AND SPECIAL OFFERS
TO THE SHOPS
MAGAZINE
MARKET RESEARCH

The Essential Directory caters for all of your shopaholic needs!

To the best of our knowledge the Web addresses listed are correct at the time of going to press. However, addresses can change. If you encounter any problems locating a site, try entering the site name in a search engine to check the address.
If you have a site you would like to see included in future guides email Simon Lovell

Key to Symbols

Our experienced Web reviewers take great care to check every aspect of a site before passing judgment, making *Total Internet* the only Web guide worth reading...

- ◇◇◇◇◇ **Avoid at all costs**
- ◆◇◇◇◇ **Poor**
- ◆◆◇◇◇ **Needs work**
- ◆◆◆◇◇ **Average**
- ◆◆◆◆◇ **Worth a look**
- ◆◆◆◆◆ **A 'must visit'**

All work and no play make for a dull bloke, to paraphrase a hackneyed old saying. To prevent this, the Web is brimming over with sites concerned with your life of leisure, as David Ireland found out...

A scene from the Star Trek Web site.

There are a wealth of sites to visit on the Web, which can be housed within the loose confines of the entertainment umbrella. Thus, with more people using the Net, it is essential to know exactly what you are after, otherwise you'll find yourself going round in circles.

This month one site really caught the eye and so the site of the month had to go to Paramount's *Star Trek* pages. There are features to celebrate 30 years of *Star Trek* and the new film *Star Trek: First Contact*. The site wins mainly for sheer design and the amount of interesting information within the site even if you're not a *Trek* fan – check out the review for more details.

Hot Stuff

There is a veritable wealth of great new entertainment sites coming onto the Net this month. As far as online magazines go, *Revue*, **http://www.revueonline.com/**, is bright, fresh and one of the best of the new breed. Published weekly it features Hotlists, Horoscopes, movie releases and also Rock Reviews. A cool new site for independent music lovers is *IMPress* at **http://impress.bellicose.com/**. This is the latest venture from Independent Music Press Inc. and is an essential guide to what's fresh in this genre of music. There is also a Music Index where you can find the band and label pages that you're after. As with most new sites the selection of bands and labels are currently limited but this is to be expected. There are also a few chirpy games you can play like Tic Tac Toe and Connect 4 using the java program, if you get bored.

A celebration of the radio, this site includes such gems as the original War of the Worlds broadcast.

For all you old nostalgia buffs out there, a new site called *Radio Classics* has just hit the Web. Found at **http://www.radioclassics.com/**, it includes such radio gems as the original *War of the Worlds* transmission and Holiday Classics, a series of 11 outstanding vintage radio shows. As far as new movie sites go *Cine House*, **http://www.geocities.com/Hollywood/9347/**, is an excellent introduction to Web sites dedicated to films. The site collates all the major film sites into one easy to access listing. The other sections Bios, Film Making and Movies are still under construction, but looks like becoming a great resource given time to evolve.

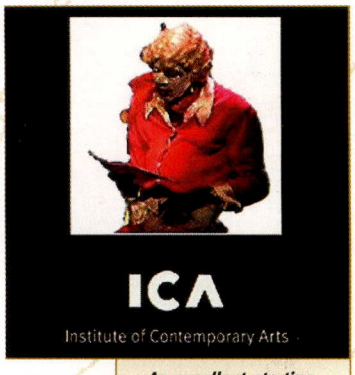
An excellent introduction to sites dedicated to the movie world.

In a similar vein the new movie site for the *Hot Link Zone*, **http://www.hotlinkzone.com/movie.htm**, with its tacky music and glimpses of animation is another good new site for the film buff.

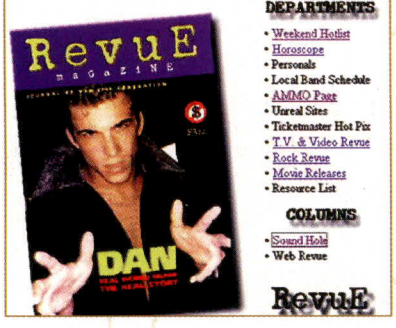
On a lighter note there is the new joke sites called *Sleight*, **http://members.aol.com/Sleight1/index.html**, which is the Web home of wicked satire and humour. Being a new site they are looking for new writers. They want to create a place where some of the most creative minds can vent their humourous thoughts on current events, so if you have the time and the sense of humour then you could take part.

There's an art to it...

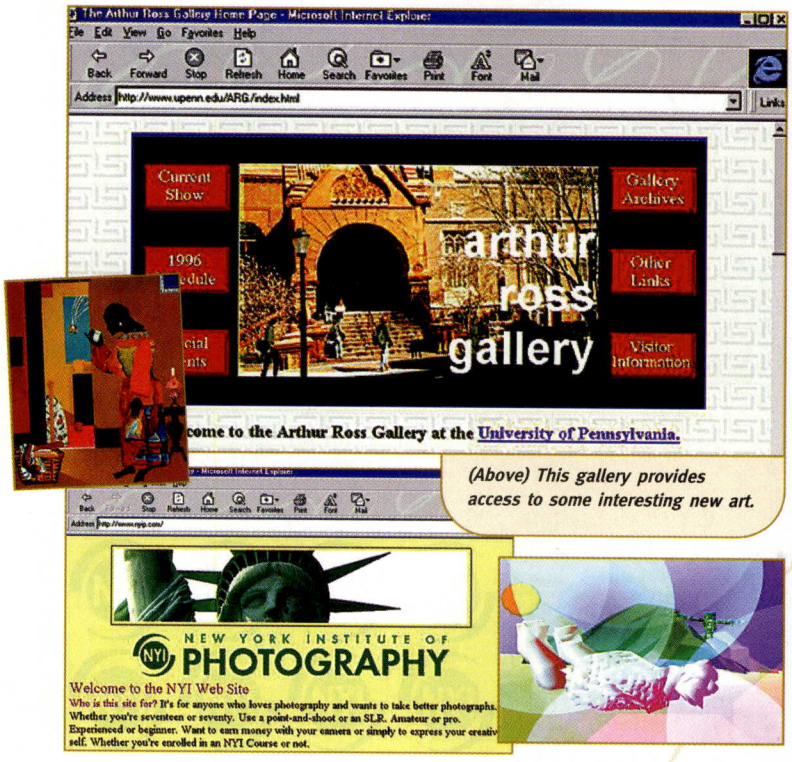
Art on the Net is a contentious subject. Some would say that art requires a better viewing forum than a computer screen. However regardless of this the amount of



An excellent starting point for finding Art on the Web.



Revue is one of the best online music magazines available.


The Arthur Ross Gallery Home Page - Microsoft Internet Explorer
Current Show
Gallery Archives
arthur ross gallery
Other Links
Visitor Information
come to the Arthur Ross Gallery at the University of Pennsylvania.

(Above) This gallery provides access to some interesting new art.

art sites is relatively large, even when compared to other entertainment pages, with some of the best sites designed by institutes and galleries from around the world.

The University of Pennsylvania, **http://www.upenn.edu/ARG/index.html**, has given the artists showing in the Arthur Ross Gallery valuable access to the Web. The current show gives space to Romare Bearden's prints, with images and text about the artist. Other features on the site include the 1996 schedule, special events and also the gallery archives. In addition there is a link to the Pennslyvania Institute of Fine Art, who's current exibition includes contemporary art from East and Central Europe.

As far as online art in the UK goes, there is the London Institute of Contemporary Arts, **http://www.illumin.co.uk/ica/**, which is distinctly split into three main sections – past, present and future. It details all the artists and their work from within the fields of performance, film and painting. If you are more interested in photography, try checking out the New York Institute of Photography found at **http://www.nyip.com/**. The institute was founded in 1910 and has a current home-study enrollment of over 20,000 in 128 countries. The site itself has news, tips and topics and a WWW photo contest.

There are plenty of sites that cover new and exciting computer generated art. The Fine Art Digital Imaging centre at Stafford University is one of the sites which have been investigating fine art within new technologies since1989. The university can be found at **http://www.staffs.ac.uk/arts/links/fadic.html**. For really astounding 3D imagery check out the Boston school of the Museum of Fine Arts: **http://www.smfa.edu/students/ploc/3DANHOME.html**.

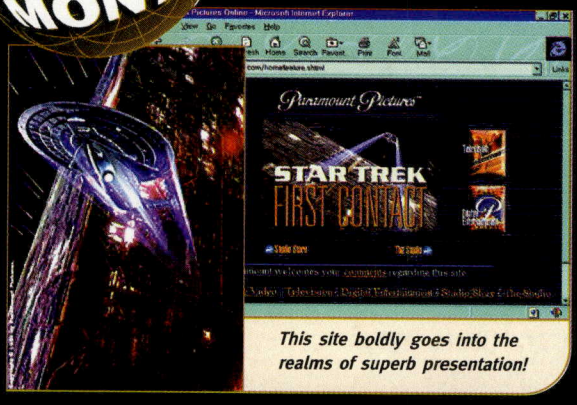
As you can see there are plenty of new and exciting sites just a phone call away. If this selection isn't enough to whet your tastebuds, read on and discover what else is worth browsing in this month's selected genres...

Computer animation is creating a big stir at the moment.

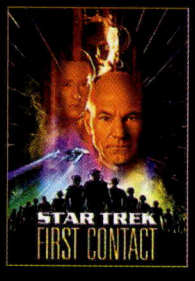
SITE OF THE MONTH

Star Trek

www.paramount.com/homefeature.shtml



This site boldly goes into the realms of superb presentation!



The *Star Trek* site, within the walls of the Paramount location, combines two great features. The celebration of 30 years of *Star Trek* and a feature on the sequel to the 1994 film *Star Trek: Generations*, called *Star Trek: First Contact*. The new film, set for release on November 22, is part of the year long celebration of Gene Roddenberry's creation.

This film was painstakingly produced in various locations, including the dramatic Titan missile Museum in Arizona, the historic Union Station in downtown Los Angeles, as well as an exterior mountain location in the nearby National Forest.

The main idea of *First Contact* revolves around the Borg institute who fail in their initial attack on Earth and plan to go back in time to Earth's most vulnerable point in history, the second dark age. If they hit the point in time just after the Third World War, they will be able to stop the first contact with aliens.

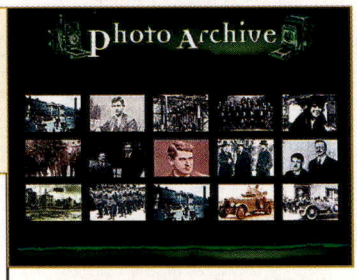
The *First Contact* page gives you the lowdown on the film, the film makers, dossiers on the characters and the principle cast that play them. There are about 50 stills from the film showing all the best action. There are also clips from the movie, if you have time to wait for them to download. However, for great imagery, the gallery house's four stunning pictures that were developed as part of the advertising campaign for the film. A campaign first presented to the public through this site.

In the *30 Years of Star Trek* site there are all the results of the Trekkers' choice awards. Various characters win awards in the categories such as ingenious engineering, unresolved romance, fish out of water and gross galactic grub. All very interesting if you are a fan and took part in the awards. There are the usual features on the *Deep Space Nine* and *The Next Generation* with viewing times and stations.

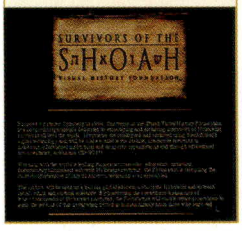
The site's only real downfall is the fact that in order to get onto the *Star Trek: Continuum* page you need to be a member of Bill Gates' Microsoft Network! This is obviously the beginning of more barriers to entry. Great site all the same.

A trip to the flicks on a Saturday night is a time honoured tradition, but now you could settle down on the Net instead...

One of the pages from the site of the controversial new Michael Collins film.



The site of the Oscar winning movie.



Schindler's List

This 1993 film received seven academy awards for best picture, best director, best adapted screenplay, best cinematography, best original score, best art direction and best film editing. The film was directed by Steven Spielberg, who had been waiting years for this type of critical acclaim to arrive.

This stylish site explains how the film portrays the true story of Oskar Schindler, who saved the lives of 1,100 Jews during the Holocaust. The site has links to other reviews of the film, if you require a second opinion and, more importantly, to a site dedicated to the survivors of the Holocaust, *The Shoah Visual History Foundation*. This is a non profit organisation which compiles information about survivors. Interesting if you liked the film and want to discover what happened behind the scenes.

A powerful portrayal of the holocaust.

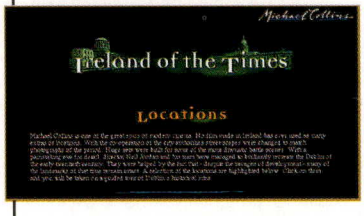
Address: http://www.geocities.com/Hollywood/3713/schindler.htm

Rating:

Michael Collins

This new film by Warner Bros was made by Neil Jordon. The film is about the Irish man who fought the British Empire in Ireland in 1916, with only a band of working class youths for an army.

Some may say this film is a 'pro-IRA' movie and although Collins' Irish volunteers did later take the name of the IRA, they then split into two factions in 1921 over the issue of whether to accept the partition treaty that Collins had negotiated with the British. This should be seen as separate from the Provisional IRA that was created in 1969 in Belfast as a result of the troubles there.



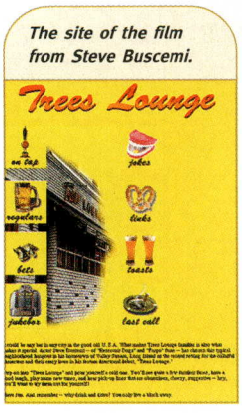
There is an in-depth Micheal Collins biography and a lowdown of the locations in the movie, said to be one of the most epic Irish films ever made. It has already won Best Picture award at the Venice Film Festival and Liam Neeson won Best Starring Role for his portrayal of Michael Collins.

Other site information includes full production notes, film photos and details on the cast and crew. A good site, go and see the film.

Address: http://www.michaelcollins.com

Rating:

The site of the film from Steve Buscemi.



An excellent site, well worth a visit.

Trees Lounge

A new film directed by Steve Buscemi, who appeared in *Fargo* and played Mr Pink in *Reservoir Dogs*. It takes its name from the bar in the flick where characters come and go while you catch snippets of their crazy lives.

Steve Buscemi plays Tommy Basilio in the film, a 30 year old car mechanic who is out of work. He loses his pregnant girlfriend to his best friend and must get his life back on track. The site provides plenty of background information on the film, which was written over a period of seven months.

The film is partly based on the directors own life experiences and activities. "I tried to imagine what my life would be like if I had never moved to Manhatten and pursued acting". This surely makes for a fresh film, based so close to real situations.

The site is excellent in content and design. It gives a full cast list and production team lowdown. To fit in with the general theme of the film there are links to other beer related sites; top ten bars in Helsinki, Beer in Pittsburgh and Milwaukee. Other parts of the site include jokes, bets and toasts to try out at your local. A really enjoyable site, well worth a visit.

Address: http://www.treeslounge.com/

Rating:

The Grass Harp

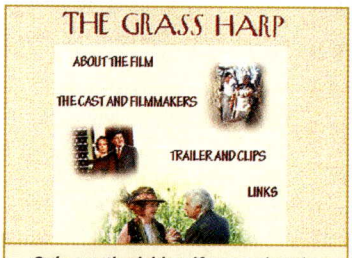
The Grass Harp is a film that was based on the novel by Truman Capote. It is set in the 1940's and tells the story of how people learn to love and change, hmm? Based around the character Colin Fenwick, who's life opens up as he learns from Dolly of the grass harp, the unforgettable sound of wind rushing through the Indian grass whispering life's secrets.

This may all sound a bit romantic for my tastes but, judging by the style of the site, it should be very classy. The site has a very detailed commentary on the film, including some stunning stills. There is a full list of the cast and the people behind the scenes. You can also access another Web page on one of Capote's other films, *In Cold Blood*.

To see the trailer for the film as well as various clips you will need at least a 28.8k modem or an ISDN connection. Unfortunately not many other stills are available if you don't possess all the right equipment. Ok, if you enjoy Truman Capote's work.

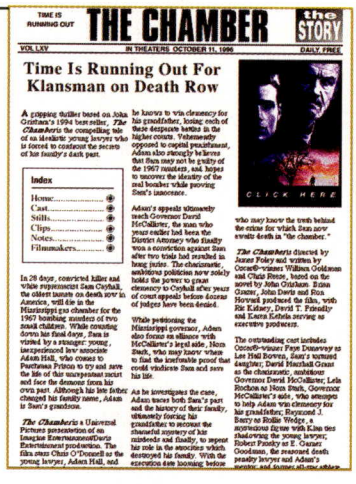
Address: http://www.flf.com/grassharp/index.html

Rating:



Only worth visiting if you enjoy the work of Truman Capote.

The Chamber

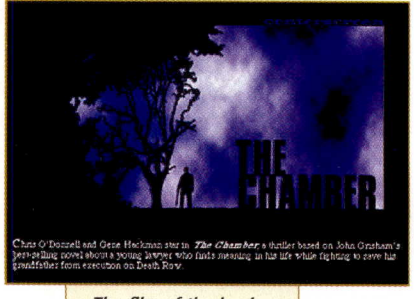

TIME IS RUNNING OUT **THE CHAMBER** the STORY

VOL. LXV — IN THEATERS OCTOBER 11, 1996 — DAILY, FREE

Time Is Running Out For Klansman on Death Row

Based on John Grisham's best selling novel about a young lawyer who finds meaning in his life while fighting to save his grandfather from execution on Death Row, this new Universal film looks set to take cinemas by storm.

In 28 days, convicted killer and white supremacist Sam Cayhall, the oldest inmate on death row in America, will die in the Mississippi gas chamber for the 1967 murders of two young Jewish children. This looks to be one of those tiring court room dramas with very little else to offer. Very rarely do these films work as well as the original novel but this could be different.



Chris O'Donnell and Gene Hackman star in *The Chamber*, a thriller based on John Grisham's best-selling novel about a young lawyer who finds meaning in his life while fighting to save his grandfather from execution on Death Row.

The film of the book becomes a Web site.

The site contains a few full screen images from the film, showing the work of the film's creative production crew. They consist of James Foley and William Goldman, *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, along with a full team of assistants.

Could turn out to be a good film, so check out the Web site.

Address: www.mca.com/universal_pictures/chamber/

Rating:

Directors

Quentin Tarantino

Called *The Ultimate Quentin Tarantino Links*, this site is simply what it says. The categories are listed under the film titles - *Reservoir Dogs*, *True Romance*, *Natural Born Killers* and *Pulp Fiction*. There are other links to sites on the man himself. Compelling.

Address: www.idb.hist.no/~kennetha/tarlink.html

Rating:

Stanley Kubrick

The Kubrick Multimedia Film Guide has limited reviews of his work, relying on images and sound bites from the flicks. Some of his films include; *2001 - A Space Odyssey*, *The Shinning* and *A Clockwork Orange*. There are loads of other associated sites too. Stylish.

Address: www.lehigh.edu/~pjl2/kubrick.html

Rating:

Woody Allen

Dedicated to the man and his films, this is compelling. Information and views on his new film *Everyone Says I Love You*, as well as reviews on previous films.

Address: www.idt.unit.no/~torp/woody/

Rating:

Luc Besson

Luc Besson is a French man who has directed movies such as *Subway*, *The Big Blue*, *Atlantis* and *Leon*. The site also has interviews and articles pertaining to related subjects.

Address: www.ifi.uio.no/~mariuswi/besson/index.html

Rating:

Buster Keaton

With the film maker's 100th birthday occurring only recently, this is a site that covers his work in films and stunts. Links to other film sites.

Address: //conan.ids.net/picpal/keaton.html.

Rating:

Martin Scorsese

A good site including features on excellent films like *Taxi Driver*, *Colour of Money*, *Mean Streets* and *Goodfellas*. Smart images and stills, plus full film/ biography.

Address: www.wenet.net/~clayton/directors/martin_scorsese/

Rating:

Alfred Hitchcock

This is one of the better the Alfred Hitchcock pages and it covers the great film *Psycho* as well as his other thrillers. You can catch those shower screens again, and this time there will be even more suspense.

Address: www.primenet.com/~mvc/

Rating:

Beautiful Thing

This film was set in London and cast around three youths growing up in a harsh urban environment. Leah, Jamie and Ste are thrown together looking for company in their insecure surroundings. The story follows the ever growing companionship of the two guys and Ste strives to find tenderness away from his bullying brother. The film follows the problems the lads have dealing with their situation, though luckily for the film it ends on an optimistic note.

The site has various pictures of the relationships throughout the film showing the mixed friendships of the sexes.

Also there are crew, cast and production notes giving the technical details and the character outlines.

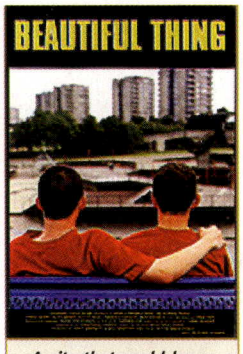
The film opened on October 11th and the site gives a link to *Movie Link - 777 Film Online* which gives you showtimes and ticket availability.

Quite well designed but rather limited overall.

Address: www.spe.sony.com/Pictures/SonyClassics/beautiful/index.html

Rating:

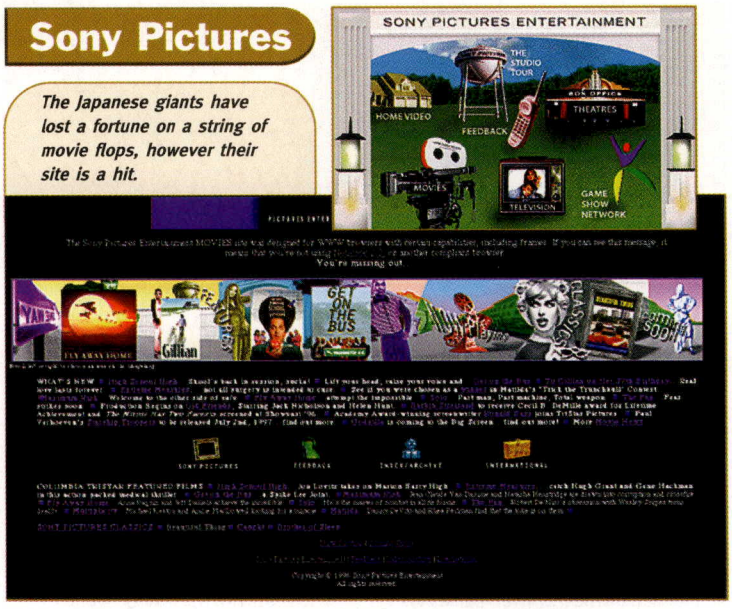
Get the lowdown on the cast members.



A site that could have done more.

Sony Pictures

The Japanese giants have lost a fortune on a string of movie flops, however their site is a hit.



The Sony Pictures page is part of the main Sony Web site. Within the Sony Pictures section there are pages on Home Video, The Studio Tour, Feedback, Box Office Theatres, Movies, Television and Game Show Network.

The Image maps take you straight to the film of your choice and this month Sony reveal their new product. *Fly Away Home* is a film about a family of orphaned geese who lost their way and how a 14 year old kid will lead them home. The other new films this month include, *Get on the Bus*, *High School High* and *Maximum Risk*.

There is also news on *Old Friends*, the film starring Jack Nicholson and Helen Hunt, which saw the start of production in September. There are two big films set for release next year. *Gozilla* finally returns to the silver screen, over 40 years after his first onslaught in Japan, while the other is the Sci-Fi epic *Starship Troopers*; an ahe adventure in which alien bugs declare war on humanity in the outer reaches of the galaxy. The film is directed by Paul Verhoeven, the chap that made the excellent *Total Recall* in the 80's.

These two are set to be huge in the next summer, so keep checking this site for more details and production stills.

All in all a good colourful site with all the information on Sony and Columbia Tristar Films you'll need.

Address: http://www.spe.com/Pictures/index.html

Rating:

Tourmacherei

Tourmacherei is a flick that following the life and relationships of Steve Dewinter. Six years ago he was married to Susan Freemont. As his married life progressed toward the American Dream he begins to realise that his aspirations were not all he thought they were going to be. Basically the chap isn't happy and he wants out, but his love for his daughter puts him in a terrible dilemma.

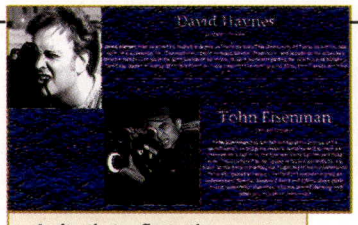
The rest of the story is a confusing tangle between past and present relationships, all linked with the quest for happiness. Steve unfortunately makes wrong decision after wrong decision and loses nearly everything he held dear.

The site doesn't seem to have the production stills it promises, but does show the cast and production crew, giving details of their past activities and films. It is quite a stylish site and has a very good film synopsis.

"Tourmacherei is the tragic tale of one man's struggle to deal with the institutions of marriage, love and sex" and the site reflects this vision.

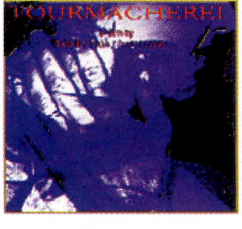
Address: http//members.aol.com/idiotboxpb/tourmac/index.html

Rating:



A site that reflects the angst of the film.

Analyse the trials of the American male.



Peter Sellers

A fitting tribute to the great comedian.

This site, called Darla's Peter Sellers Tribute, is dedicated to the actor and comedian. Peter Sellers was born in North London on September 8, 1925 into a showbiz family. His break in the *Goon Show* aided his film career no end.

One of his best attributes was his ability to play multiple characters with ease and style. A classic example of this was his role in *Dr Strangelove*, considered by many to be his greatest film.

He had many other smash hits, included the best remembered *Pink Panther* series of films that ran throughout the 60's and 70's and *Being There* (1979), for which he was nominated for an Oscar, before in 1980 sadly passing away.

The site offers a full biography of his life. The filmography is definitive and has the authors rating to show some of the best ones. Sellers also recorded many comedy albums of which most are listed on the discography page of this site.

The site has a nice addition in the form of a Wanted page. The author is obviously a massive fan and is looking for Sellers material that he is yet to get his hands on.

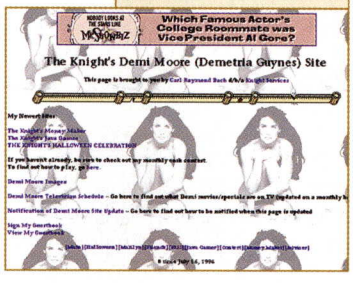
Finally the site refers to other related Web pages such as a *Goon* location and *Pink Panther* pages.

Address: http://members.aol.com/damsel16/sellers.html

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Demi Moore

Demi in keeping her clothes on shocker!



Carl Raymond Bach brings you Demi Moore, the attractive actress who married *Die Hard* actor Bruce Willis. This page has a reasonable design using multiple images of the lady to provide a stunning background. There are approximately 10 photos of her to download, though sadly all of them are quite respectable.

There is a TV schedule page which highlights the actresses movements on Stateside television, east to west. Carl (a possible stalker?) updates this each month so there is no excuse to miss any of her appearances.

Some of the recent screenings on the site include *About Last Night*, *Blame it on Rio* and *St. Elmo's Fire* (I never knew she was in that, too young to notice maybe!).

There is a groovy guest book facility for you to sign. You can view your emailed entries, as well as the comments of other DM fans. Bruce Willis has even allegedly left a message, saying that the poor dear is not that hot in bed and he wants a divorce, well what can you say to that?

A rather limited site overall with no biography or filmography. However the site is scheduled for an overhaul in the near future, so stay tuned. Worth checking out if you are a fan.

Address: www.erinet.com/carl/demi/demi.html

Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

[Back to the Demi Moore page]

Comedy Movies

Ace Ventura

An absolute plethora of sound files. There seems to be every quote from the movie here, sampled for your listening pleasure. Also loads of pictures. Good site.

Address: http://www.geocities.com/Hollywood/Hills/1192/ace1.html

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Carry On...

A look into that classic British film phenomena – *The Carry On*. All the old films are here, with appropriate graphics and quotes. It's all good clean fun! Well worth a visit by fans of the genre.

Address: http://www.adavids.demon.co.uk/carry/carry.html

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Ferris Bueller's Day Off

With imagination, courage and a red Ferrari, life at 17 can be a joy. Finding this page reminded me of being young and kicking against authority. A great film, and a good tribute.

Address: http://www.dartmouth.edu/~bueller

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Groundhog Day

The Bill Murray film that keeps you enthralled because it's the Bill Murray film that keeps you enthralled because... OK, bad joke! Good film, poor site – don't bother!

Address: http://powered.cs.yale.edu:8000/~miller/hog/groundhog.html

Rating: ◆◇◇◇◇

The Mask

A second Jim Carey offering. What can I say? Very slow loading, missing pictures, corrupt links, the only thing that was Sssmokin' was my temper. This site wins the "Sewer of the Month" award!

Address: http://www.geocities.com/Hollywood/Hills/1192/mask.html

Rating: ◇◇◇◇◇

The Party Animal

A cult movie this one. I saw it once at university, and have never even heard about it again, until I found this page. Set up by a fan and unfortunately it shows. Nice concept, poor execution.

Address: http://www.geocities.com/SunsetStrip/6610/

Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

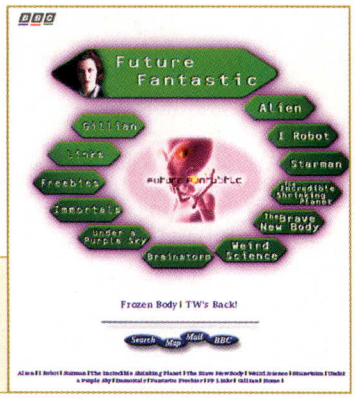
Little Shop of Horrors

Another favourite of mine. Everyone who's seen this film knows all the words to all the songs, and these are all here. Good graphics but little content other than lyrics. Not much point really.

Address: http://www.igc.net/~purcottg/LSOH/

Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

Couch potatoes need not despair, the World Wide Web is a veritable TV heaven, as David Ireland discovered...



The BBC site covers all of Auntie's top shows, including the paranormal world of Future Fantastic.

BBC

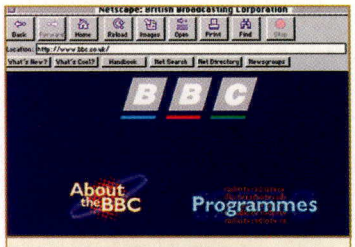
The BBC home page, sporting the traditional Beeb logo, is bright and friendly site, with links to all the radio stations, BBC 1, BBC2 and all the regional companies. The site is regularly updated with news and previews on upcoming shows.

There is currently a good site for *Future Fantastic* incorporating loads of information to support the programme and some of the topics addressed throughout the series. These include aliens, robots, time and space travel, weird science and lots of other interesting futuristic phenomena – a must for fans of the paranormal. There is also a Gillian Anderson information page if you're a fan of the famous *X-Files* star.

There is also a programmes page, which allows you to choose from a wide variety of subjects to find out which programmes are on the WWW site. On the humour side of things there are pages for *The Legacy of Reginald Perrin*, the updated sit-com, which fails to live up to the quality of its seventies predecessor, and, humour in the loosest sense of the word from the *Jim Davidson's Generation Game* page. The natural history coverage includes information on a new series called *Operation Survival*, which aims to highlight conservation issues in Scotland. Overall an informative and massive site.

Address: http://www.bbc.co.uk/

Rating:



The Beeb have an informative and seemingly endless site.

NBC

This site is colourful, very well designed and professional. The categories within the site include; Entertainment programmes, News and Information, NBC sports and general interest. The site provides loads of information on most of the network's programmes, keeping you up to date with the storylines.

If you're just plain curious or are soon travelling to the States you can check out all the on screen events and schedules for the forthcoming programmes relevant to a particular state. The online instructions are easy to follow and it's virtually impossible to lose your way as you navigate the different sections.

Additionally, NBC Worldwide promotes the Asian Pacific Rim this month, providing full local schedules and interesting news on the comings and goings in the shows listed.

As you'd expect, NBC's Web presence is skilled and slick.

Address: http://www.nbc.com

Rating:

Channel 4

Channel 4 has an amazing Web site. Lots of time and effort has been put into this and it's packed with interesting features on all your favourite TV shows. There are listings, updates, C4 information and a useful section called Areas. This covers broadcasts such as Sport, Films, Culture, Entertainment, Drama, Schools plus loads more.

Among the more interesting material on offer, James Richardson talks about the new series of *Football Italia* and the dodgy young soap *HollyOaks* has a complementary site.

Alternatively, the schools section is excellent for children and teachers alike. It's conveniently split into primary, secondary and subjects. There are also teachers guides to download free, such as Euro kids and Science in Focus. as well as activity sheets for kids.

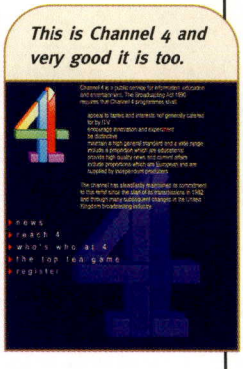
The information page gives a description of Channel 4's mandate, which is to appeal to tastes and interests not generally catered for by mainstream ITV (funny how we all only watch it for the American sit-coms).

The back up page covers a range of services for viewers who want to know more about topics covered in their programs.

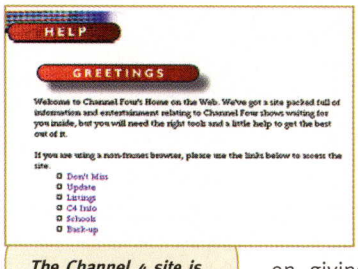
Finally the listings page helps you to find out exactly what's on, giving the usual information you'd find in the papers.

Address: http://www.channel4.com/

Rating:



This is Channel 4 and very good it is too.

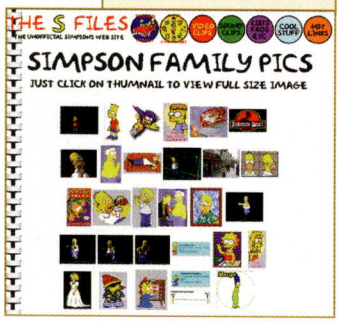

HELP
GREETINGS
Welcome to Channel Four's Home on the Web. We've got a site packed full of information and entertainment relating to Channel Four shows waiting for you inside, but you will need the right tools and a little help to get the best out of it.
If you are using a non-frames browser, please use the links below to access the site.
Don't Miss
Update
Listings
C4 Info
Schools
Back-up

The Channel 4 site is an example to other networks on the Web.

The Simpsons

There are many sites dedicated to *The Simpsons* and after a good look through them, *The S Files: The unofficial Simpsons' Home Page* emerged as one of the better new ones. It includes a humourous back catalogue of family pictures, that are ideal for use as colourful icons!

The entire family caught on camera.



As well as the family characters, you can also discover the hard-to-remember names of the many peripheral characters in the show, like Snowball 2, Jasper amd Snake.

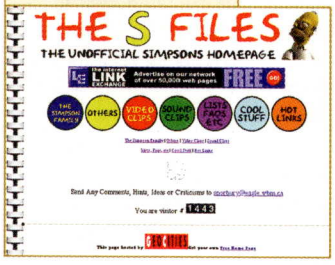
Video clips are available to download and some of the best are here for you to catch again, such as the scene in which Luke Perry gets shot from a cannon and the infamous beer explosion.

Other features on the site include *The Simpsons* most frequently asked questions, episode lists and sayings.

If you enjoy the theme music you can download it via Microsoft Plus, which is a nice extra. As is the option of downloading Simpson characters onto the games *Doom* and *Doom 2*.

Address:
http://www.geocities.com/hollywood/9129/index.html
Rating:

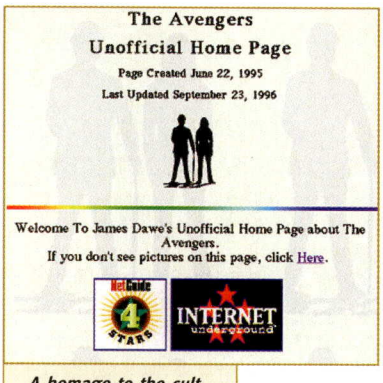
One of the best new Simpsons fan sites.



The Avengers

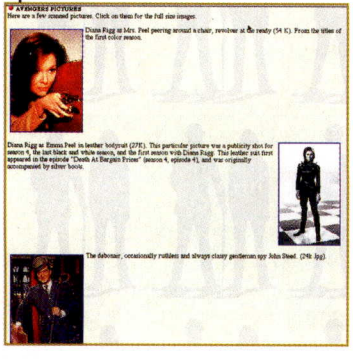
Unofficial Home Page.

This site bows at the knees to the famous cult TV series and is updated regularly by James Dawe. It's an excellent homage to the spy/action adventure, first screened during the 1960's, and, like the series, it pays more than passing respect to the beautiful leading ladies, such as Diana Rigg.


The Avengers
Unofficial Home Page
Page Created June 22, 1995
Last Updated September 23, 1996
Welcome To James Dawe's Unofficial Home Page about The Avengers.
If you don't see pictures on this page, click Here.
INTERNET underground

A homage to the cult 1960's series.

The site is reasonably arranged with lots of links to other fan pages throughout the text, which is great if you require more specific information from other Avengers fans. There are approximately 100 pictures selected from each of the series, including Honor Blackman, Patrick Macnee and Linda Thorson. The biographies of the actors and actresses are interesting and there is even news/rumours of a new *Avengers* movie. You can also order merchandise like T-shirts, Trading Cards, books and Videos..



Address:
http://www.ee.ualberta.ca/~dawe/avengers.html
Rating:

Soaps

Coronation Street

An attractive site from this famous television programme that has been running since 1960. This offers info on the history of *The Street*, has the Rovers Return guest book for you to sign and updates on happenings on the street by Glenda Young.

Address: http://www.computan.on.ca/~graham/cs.html
Rating:

East Enders

The Walford Gazette.

This is the only online newspaper dedicated to this soap. Good idea, well executed. Interviews with Bianca, cooking with Sanjay and an essay on saving Albert Square... from its residents!

Address: http://www.spacelab.net/~albertsq/
Rating:

Emmerdale

A rather bland site, though this unofficial guide to the countryside soap does give a background to the programme, cast and pictures. You can also find out what's going to happen in upcoming episodes – for August!

Address: http://members.aol.com/surveyor96/emmerdale.htm
Rating:

Holly Oaks

This is the official home page giving you the story so far, character and actor outlines and a space to air your comments.

Address: www.connect.org.uk/hollyoaks/
Rating:

Home and Away

Unofficial. Bright and sunny just like the soap. This is packed with news, interviews with the stars and the crew, features, pictures and trivia. An excellent site.

Address: http://www.ozemail.com.au/~rellis/
Rating:

Beverly Hills 90210

Well designed for an unofficial site with episode rundowns and cast details. America will never be the same again, worth a visit.

Address: www.cuonline.com/~adept/90210/a.htm
Rating:

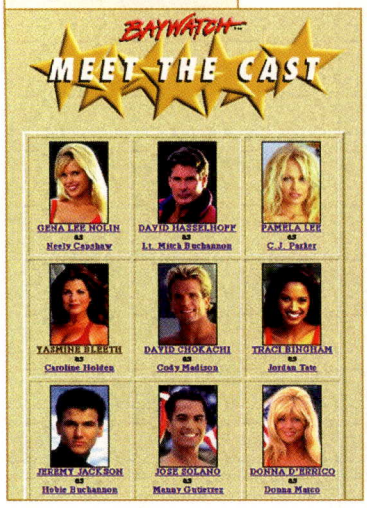
Neighbours

This is a fun, fan maintained site with weekly schedules for Australia and UK and a cast list. There are theme tune samples and newsflashes, one claiming Harold's back from the dead.

Address:
http://www.geocities.com/hollywood/hills/2181/newsflash.html
Rating:

Baywatch

Here's your chance to find out more about your favourite plastic Baywatch star.


BAYWATCH
MEET THE CAST
GENA LEE NOLIN as Neely Capshaw
DAVID HASSELHOFF as Lt. Mitch Buchannon
PAMELA LEE as C.J. Parker
YASMINE BLEETH as Caroline Holden
DAVID CHOKACHI as Cody Madison
TRACI BINGHAM as Jordan Tate
JEREMY JACKSON as Hobie Buchannon
JOSE SOLANO as Manny Gutierrez
DONNA D'ERRICO as Donna Marco

Sun, Sea, more Sun and sand at the official site. This site is fairly bright and breezy, exactly what you would expect from a homage to the silicone enhanced TV show.

The site boasts insider information on all the new episodes. Audio and Video files are available of some of the 'best' parts, try Shark Fever and Liquid Assets.

The photo gallery is basically what you would expect, with plenty of red swimming cozzys and aviators on show. Meet the cast and find out all they get up to when they are not saving lives.

The site also includes

information on *Baywatch Nights*, a new programme by the same team, which seems to be a cross between the regular *Baywatch* and the *X-Files*.

As we all know the water in the show's bay is pretty shallow and this site is the same. It looks good at first, but you soon realise that below the gloss there's nothing there.

Address:
http//baywatch.compuserve.com/index.html
Rating:

Tomorrow's World

Discover what the future holds...

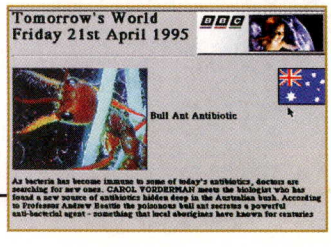
Another attractively designed BBC site. This is updated weekly to coincide with each new episode. The week I saw had information to back up the programme's look at Robo Cow, a machine built by a British professor of robotics to help cowboys learn difficult routines without the need for real cattle. Other features included the 21st Century car and a stroke prevention idea.

It is possible to find out exactly what will be happening in future issues. For instance, the 21st October programme will feature Satellite Chain Reaction, a project to encase the Earth in a web of 66 telecommunications satellites.

Another excellent feature is the *Tomorrow's World* Archive page. It contains episode round ups on the main features as far back as December 1994.

Other pages include Hot Science, consisting of related links to science sites around the globe. There are even *Tomorrow's World* jobs advertised if you're interested in being the next presenter!

Address:
http://www.bbc.co.uk/tw/
Rating:



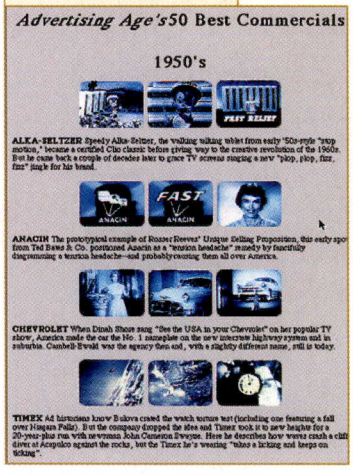
AdAge

A trip down consumer memory lane.

This site celebrates the art of television advertising over the past five decades. During this time there must have been millions of awful ads with dreadful acting and very little sway over the audience. The site highlights the more important ones and how they they have effected the world around the screen. Of course it is quite difficult to distinguish between a good ad and a bad one. The great ads though, tend to remain fresh and exciting, years after they were first screened. Its not always the funny ones either.

The site is split into decades, leaving you to wander through time viewing stills from those adverts you loved best. Some of the greats include; Maxwell House from the 60's, which had that lingering sound of bubbling coffee, and more recent gems like

One of the golden ad decades on offer.



the Nike (Just Do It) adverts.

Interesting, but sadly most of the adverts on display were chosen from American television, which is a shame considering all the gems created by British advertising men over the years. Even so, a well presented site all the same.

Address:
http://www.adage.com/features/commercials/
Rating:

Triumph of the Nerds

Dedicated to those who made it possible.

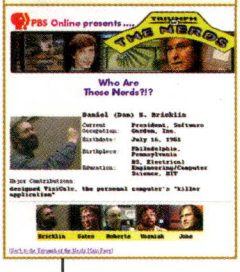
This was a short series of programmes documenting the rise of computers and the Superhighway we know and love today.

It shows how youthful amateurs, usually of the nerdish variety, changed the face of the world with their high-tech inventions.

The site includes topics from programmes such as The History of the Computer, discussing its roots from the humble abacus to the apple, IBM and the World Wide Web.

There are statistics on some of the nerds who made it possible, plus the TV transcript can be downloaded for you to study at your leisure.

A site dedicated to the high-tech heroes.



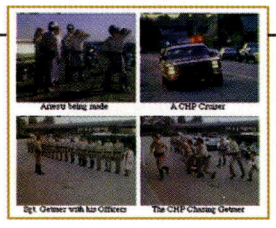
Bob Cringely the computer industry gossip columnist answers questions submitted by viewers and talks about the future of the Internet and other Cringely related projects. Other information on the accompanying book and video are also included on the site.

Rather limited site overall but interesting if you haven't seen the programme.

Address: http://www.pbs.org/nerds/

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Chips



Chips is to return to the television screen, exactly 20 years after NBC premiered the motorcycle cop hit. I don't know quite what it is about this series, maybe it was the wooden acting, maybe the set, or maybe just the big bikes, but it gained quite a following.

This site offers the *Chips* picture gallery, with group photos and the all important action images. There are even stills of what Erik Estrada and Larry Wilcox look like today. There are episode guides for the first six seasons, edited by Patrick Delahanty, with each episode given a brief plot outline, guest stars and a rating out of five stars.

The most frequently asked questions are split into show info, character info, fan info, miscellaneous info and an index of terms.

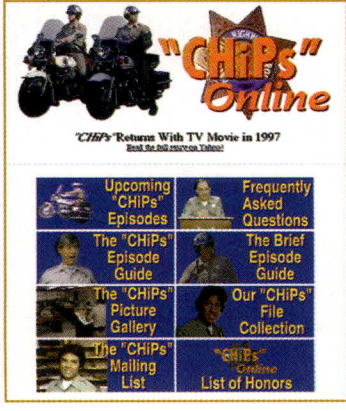
To top it all, *Chips* online has been honoured by Mirsky's worst of the Web; Useless WWW pages; Geek site of the day; Top 5% of all Web sites and got full marks from the Magellen Internet guide. Quite a diverse range of awards methinks!

To be honest judging by the differing opinions, it's best to make your own mind up, but it could have been better.

Address: http//underground.internet.com/chips/

Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

A site for true fans of the hit TV show only.


"CHiPs" Online
"CHiPs" Returns With TV Movie in 1997
Upcoming "CHiPs" Episodes
Frequently Asked Questions
The "CHiPs" Episode Guide
The Brief Episode Guide
The "CHiPs" Picture Gallery
Our "CHiPs" File Collection
The "CHiPs" Mailing List
"CHiPs" Online List of Honors

Sitcoms

Absolutely fabulous

There are several sites for this popular comedy. On this one you can select from schedules, clips and images, episode guides and even order AbFab t-shirts!

Address: http//comcentral.com/abfab/abfab.shtml

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Father Ted

This unofficial *Father Ted* site is named *The Craggy Island Examiner* and it's as good as the smash hit Channel 4 comedy. Packed with priestly gags, the episode guide gives rundowns on all you might have missed from the first two series. Very humourous.

Address: www.geocities.com/paris/2694/ftmorgue.html

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Friends

A popular comedy and this is another new site in honour of it. Offers pictures, sound bites and links to sites. Colourful but still in production, so a bit limited.

Address: www.ozemail.com.au/~friends/

Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

Red Dwarf

Called *Better Smeg than Dead* this site has an exclusive official *Red Dwarf* drinking game, plenty of pictures and loads of articles. A well spaced out site, that will have you coming back for more.

Address: http//toaster.ee.ubc.ca/pub/red-dwarf/

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Married With Children

This TV show from Fox is about the dysfunctional Bundy family. It gives you full information on the cast, the Bundys and their neighbours, as well as an episode guide and a *MWC* drinking game.

Address: http//inet.uni_c.dk/~pegasus1/index.html

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Muppets

Dedicated to the original madcap adventures on the *Muppet Show*. The site is quite new, but colourful and sporting a few cool pictures. Animal would love it.

Address: www.winternt.com/~whit/pictures.html

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Home Improvement

A very well designed site that has received a number of complimentary Internet awards. It offers full reviews and schedules plus a what's new guide. A good example of what can be done with a little thought

Address: www.morepower.com/homeimpr.html

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Matador

A Stateside label, packed with cool bands.

You can view all the back issues of their paper.

This is a Stateside label with loads of cool bands on its roster. The home page is rather packed yet quick and easy to call up. The site gives you all the latest Matador news, releases and general information. It also gives you access to all the issues of Matador's own paper publication- *Escandalo*. These have a wide variety of articles about band related stuff, gossip and other such frolics, along with more oblique features such as the Fear of Flying article?

So if you need to know why the band *18th Dye* have now deceased this is the place to visit.

The design is sharp, snappy and uses few excessive images, which keeps the call-up time to a minimum. Matador also manufacture and distribute for other labels as well as their own. These include Crypt Records, PCP Entertainment, Radial Records, Siltbreeze and Teanbeat. All these labels have their own Web sites for you to access via the Matador site. There are also other readables available to order, such as fanzines and magazines that are not usually available in shops – *Escargot Magazine* and *Speed Kills* are two of these.

If you have any queries regarding any of Matador's activities then you can pester them using their bulletin board. Other site features include: How to write a Record review, Staff, Credits, Sex without Love and Matador's charity involved with gun control.

Address: http://www.matador.recs.com

Rating:

Island

A big record label with a large and impressive Web presence.

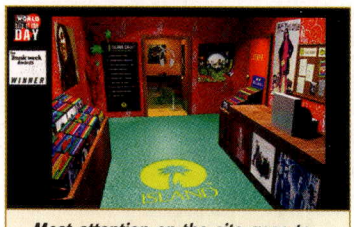
Island Records is one of the largest labels around and because of this you would expect it to be one of the best sites on offer, having the advantage of excessive time and money to spend. Judging by the home page this is not that far from the truth as it is very impressive and colourful, when it arrives. However a homepage does not maketh a Web site and the high resolution images throughout the site take far too long to load.

The site updates you on the array of new releases available and covers information on Island's history. Most attention has been given to bands that have new releases out or are big names, such as *U2* and *Tricky*.

The company has provided a listening booth within a beautifully designed three dimensional environment. However, to check out the sounds you may have to reconfigure to handle the material.

Address: http://www.island.co.uk/island/

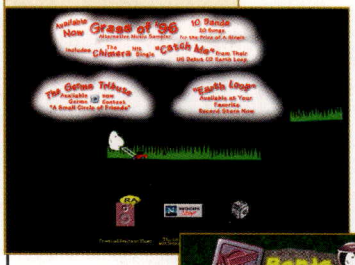
Rating:



Most attention on the site goes to the big name bands on the label, such as U2. Even so, there are still some nice touches here.

Grass Records

Check out the site for this small Indie label.



This is a small record label, but very involved in the whole independent music world. Once you get under the skin of this site it is quite interesting. There are a lot of reviews of fanzines from all over the place, plus all the usual selection of touring news, band information and sampler options.

One thing though, some of the areas advertised on the home page are actually still incomplete, which can be a bit annoying when you spend time trying to locate an icon that is under construction.

Grass have designed their site well, utilising small images on an attractive grass field with large icons.

Other features of interest include Grass wear, free stuff and tour dates for *Baboon*, *Chimera* and *Ditch Witch*.

Address: http://www.grassrecords.com

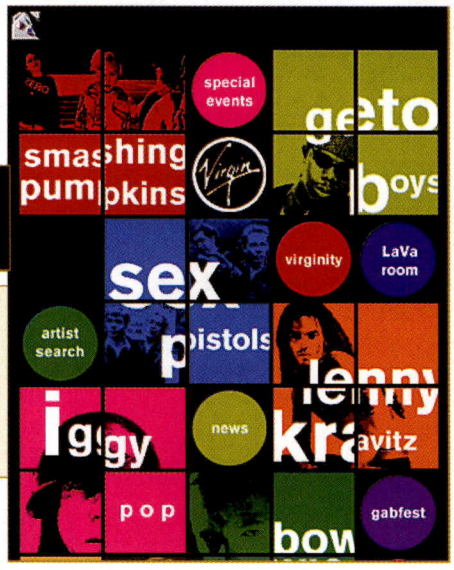
Rating:

Virgin Records

Very minimal home page, but colourful contents page using photos and band names in a collage design. Overall the site is well laid out and it is easy to access exactly what you are after. Some of the bands and names on the label include the *Sex Pistols*, Lenny Kravitz, John Lee Hooker, *Smashing Pumpkins*, Iggy Pop and David Bowie.

The site has a facility called Gabfest, which is basically a micro-chip A and R guy ready and waiting to hear from you. It gives you advice on how to get your band signed. Virgin point out that they only accept material submitted by a reputable industry source. This, I suppose, reduces the influx of hordes of tapes by all and sundry to their offices.

There is a chat area so you can ask pertinent questions in the hope of a response. I haven't yet found out how foolproof these facilities are, just give it a try and see.



As a huge and forward thinking company, Virgin should have done more with their site. Even so, they do allow demos to be submitted, if they match certain criteria.

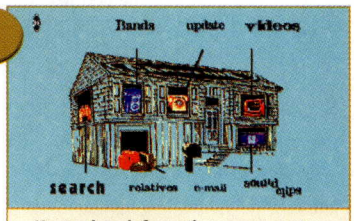
Address: http://www.virginrecords.com/

Rating:

Caroline Records

Caroline Records has a bright and cheerful home page containing an image of an old wooden house. You need to look into each window to find your specific information requirements. The Caroline Records roster includes the excellent duo *Idaho*, *Ben Folds Five*, *Placebo*, *Tanner*, *Versus* and the breakbeat champs, *The Chemical Brothers*.

There is news on a new compilation called *Violent World*, which is a collection of cover versions, including top quality contributions from the likes of *Metallica*, *Soundgarden* and *Therapy*.



Up to date information on some top acts can be found at Caroline.

There is also a visit the neighbours link section giving a few of the smaller labels some all important Web site space. The labels include Instant Mayhem and Passenger to name but a few. Caroline have spent time creating a fictional 100 year history of their company. This makes for humourous reading and gives a lighter tone to the topic.

Address: http://www.caroline.com/

Rating:

Band Sites

Throwing Muses

This page also has information on Kristin Hersh. It gives you the *Muses* touring news and new album, *Limbo*, sound samples. The photos are rather few and far between but there is a virtual reality gallery, if you have the right equipment.

Address: www.throwingmusic.com.

Rating:

Pavement

The watery domestic page. Up to date news, tons of articles and links. An unofficial site with a nice Lo-Fi home page, rather fitting to the bands sound. Fan reports on recent shows, setlists and fun information.

Address: Kelvin.seas,virginia.EDU/~wsc4e/pavement/

Rating:

Beach Boys

Compiled as a site dedicated to all things *Beach Boys* and Brian Wilson. The pictures are kept quite small so you don't have to wait too long. Photos, reviews etc.

Address: www.cabinessence.com/brian/

Rating:

Faust

An in-depth site covering the German band and their activities, gigs and sounds. Other topics include The Faust Manifesto, album reviews a full discography and pictures. Julian Cope's views on the band and info on a limited edition record that is available.

Address: www.adweb.co.uk/andyw/Faust/index.htm

Rating:

Cast

Gives you everything you need to know about the Scouse band, their singles, members, why they chose their name – tour dates and a few photos.

Address: www.eis.enac.dgas.fr:8001/~lavina/Ecast.html

Rating:

Autechre

A cool, ambient band. This is an unofficial site but it is well designed with discography, sound samples and the *Autechre* mailing list.

Address: www.infinet.com/~eufonix/autechre/ ae.html.

Rating:

Brian Eno

Producer and artist in own right. This is an excellent site with loads of good images. Features available include bibliography, lyrics and other Eno projects.

Address: www.hyperreal.com/music/artists/brian_eno/

Rating:

4AD

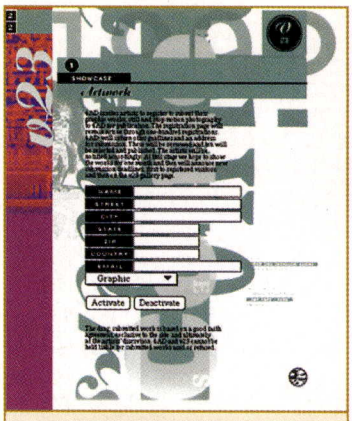
Providing exclusive news from the USA.

The designer Vaughan Oliver from V-23 shows his superb skills on this 4AD home page. A very stylised and attractive site, though, as usual, you have to be patient with it.

The site gives you exclusive news from the US side of the company as well as its UK base. The new albums from *Dead Can Dance*, *Lush* and *Scheer* are given a lot of coverage for obvious reasons. No sign of any 4AD classics page however, a feature on the *Pixies* would be cool!

The interview with *Mojave* is quite an interesting read. They were previously the defining members of the shoe-gazing band *Slowdive*. *Mojave* talk about their move away from the old *Slowdive* style to a more acoustic and mature sound.

The site also has a very impressive V-23 design gallery.



Take a chance and submit your own work if think you're good enough to do so.

The majority of the images are taken from 4AD covers. These were mainly done by Vaughan Oliver himself during the period 1988 to 1994.

You can also register to submit your own work to V-23, if you think you have what it takes.

Address: http://www.iuma.com/4AD

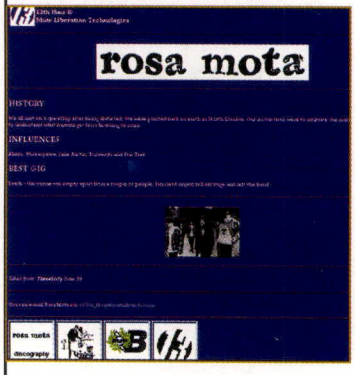
Rating:

Mute

Dark and moody like the bands.

A dark and moody home page that some would say is fitting for the majority of the bands on Mute. The design is rather bland and functional throughout the site, although the text itself is far from that.

Mute promote one of their new signings here, *Jon Spencer Blues Explosion*. Jon Spencer was the founding guitarist/ vocalist of *Pussy Galore*, a New York trash band from the late eighties. His new band is classed as raunchy blues and have had previous albums called *Crypt Style*, *Extra Width*, *Orange* and a remixes album. *Now I Got Worry* is their first for Mute.



There is a comprehensive history on Moby, documenting his moves in style from punk DIY speed metal with the band *Vatican Commandoes*, through to the Acid House sound and then onto techno. Moby now returns to his more guitar based roots with his new stuff for 1996.

Other features include *Erasure* tour news, but as usual these sites tend to soon go out of date, becoming irrelevant unless updated regularly. There is various Mute merchandise you can order direct from them. These include, for example, a 100 page full colour catalogue – not bad.

Address: http://www.mutelibtech.com/mute/

Rating:

Go Discs

The site is proud to have been the first to have Real Audio sound files.

This has a very boring home page, one of the types you think is still down loading, then you realise that it finished ages ago. On the following page however they do have a cunning disclaimer saying they were trying to avoid huge downloads. I'm sure there is a happy medium somewhere.

The artists on the label include Paul Weller, *The Beautiful South*, *The Trash Can Sinatras*, *Portishead*, *Drugstore* and many others. The site is proud about its status as having been the first to have Real Audio sound files (produces a sound quality almost similar to that of AM radio apparently).

The Go Discs tour guide tells you exactly who is where and when. The most impressive part of the site is the Go Links page. This has about 100 links to cool and interesting sites. The contacts range all the way from Acid Jazz to Greenpeace to The Supersonic Guide to British Music.

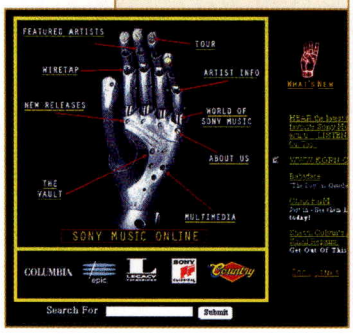
There are a few extras such as a Go Discs screen saver. It was produced by the company that did the work behind the charity Help for the War Child appeal. Another extra is the natty digital postcard facility. You can design the card using a selection of backgrounds and photos then send it to whoever you like. Choose any image you like, from pigs to mountains streams, it's up to you.

Address: http://www.godiscs.co.uk/

Rating:

Sony

There are loads of places to visit here.



The Sony home page consists of a robot hand map, where certain parts, such as the thumb, take you to various parts of the site. There are also five other associated labels – Columbia, Epic, Legacy, Sony Classics and Country to wade through. There is a nice section on the home page highlighting what's new on the site. Useful if you're a regular visitor. Something new when I viewed it was information on the band *Chalk Farm*.

The featured artists page is well laid out with the covers of the records and band names. There are discussion areas where you can have conversations about the bands, creating a sort of forum using email.

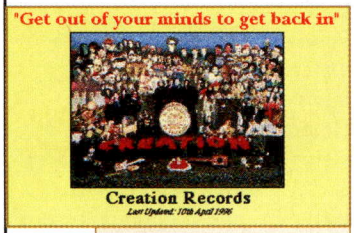
The artists include *The Screaming Trees*, Miles Davis and Molly Maguire. The world of Sony Online gives you all the new Sony music locations over the globe, so you can visit France if you can read French. The touring page is apparently under heavy construction, so I suppose there are dumper trucks and scaffolding lying about somewhere. The best facility on the site is probably the Vault. If you are looking for a re-issue of your favourite album, or a retro of your favourite artist, you can find it all through this.

There are a variety of multi-media applications for your entertainment: Sound Clips, Video Clips, Streamind Video, CD Rom and screen savers. There is a lot to this site.

Address: http://www.music.sony.com

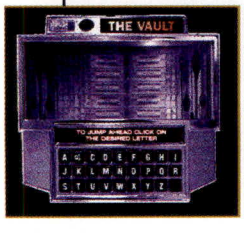
Rating:

Creation Records



The band sites, including Oasis, are very informative.

The Creation Home page uses the well known image from the Beatles album cover for *Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club*. Unfortunately this site has not been updated recently but there are a few features to roam around on. The album releases page offers music from Bob Mould, the chap that sang in *Sugar* as well as records from Alex Chilton.



There are also a bunch of single releases listed.

The live events are poorly updated with only a few dates mentioned. To be honest the Creation competition page is also a bit lacking. Simply giving the answer to the old competition, who won and a short announcement that there will be another competition soon, isn't enough.

The better pages are the specific band sites. These are far more informative, giving pictures, news and tour dates for all your fave Creation bands, including *Super Furry Animals* and that new, up and coming band *Oasis*!

You can also send in your comments and advice to Creation Records, mine is – When are you going to update your Web site?

Address: www.musicbase.co.uk/music/creation

Rating:

Band Sites cont.

Deep Purple

The legendary band are back with a new album – *Perpendicular*. They also plan to re-release *Fireball*, with an unreleased track called *Slow Train*. Cool site if you're a fan of old.

Address: www.deep-purple.com/

Rating:

Ash

The official fan club site has had 25,667 visits since the start of the year. Kept well up to date giving info on their Asia tour, pictures and lyrics. Essential.

Address: http://www.iol.ie/~verve/ash.html.

Rating:

Stone Roses

The Geffen band quoted as the masters of anticipation. *The Stone Roses* talk about their second album, give you sound samples as well as an in-depth biography.

Address: http://geffen.com/sroses.html

Rating

Lou Reed and The Velvet Underground

Superb site designed with Andy Warhol's bananas for a background. Lots of images, interviews and a full discography. Plus Sterling Morrison remembered piece.

Address: http://www.rocknroll.net/loureed/

Rating:

Charlatans UK

Stylish and informative site. Band info and history of the Indie band so far. Images and links to other sites. Well laid out.

Address: http://www.ifi.uio.no/~eirikg/charlatans.html

Rating:

Sebadoh

Official home page for this American Indie rock band with catchy riffs and melodic bass lines. It covers frequently asked questions about *Sebadoh*, discography and loads of good photos.

Address: http://www.cafeliberty.com/sebadoh/

Rating:

Boredoms

Wild Japanese band that melds all kinds of music styles. Info on records, a selection of *Boredoms'* drawings and also linked to the Reprise Records home page.

Address: http://www.repriserec.com/bordoms.

Rating:

This Sporting Life

Thanks to Sky Sports, it's now possible to watch other people exercise 24 hours a day. TOTAL INTERNET set out to discover if the Web could compete...

Keep up to date with all the latest betting information.

Netscape: THE SPORTING LIFE
The Sporting Life
Thursday, November 14, 1996
Pre-Launch offer ends 30th Nov 96
ORDER NOW
Launches 28th Oct 96
THE INDEPENDENT VOICE OF RACING
SPORT SCENE
Fenwick hit by FA fine
Corals punter to figh
ruling over £259,200
TERRY O'CALLAGHAN, who claims that Corals ow
£259,200, yesterday expressed his determination to
legal action to force Coral Racing to honour his disp
football bet.
By DAVID ASHFORTH

The Internet is a paradise for armchair sports fans covering everything from up to the minute results to those obscure pieces of sports information that can keep you arguing with your best friend for hours on end.

Although there is a vast ocean out there to surf and plenty to review and choose from our site of the month goes to the official Web site for football fans, the Carling Premiership site, **http://www.fa-carling.com/**, which is well designed, big, bright and very informative.

Thanks to the revolution of the Internet, fans will never again have to wait for those Ceefax pages to update, listen to that old radio that should have been thrown out a years ago or put up with that BBC sports reporter who was quite clearly at a completely different match to the one you were watching.

The birth of the Internet brings you information at the touch of a button. No matter how obscure the sport you follow, support or participate in, there is bound to be something out there that will catch your eye. The only problem is there's so much out there to choose from, with every sport and past-time catered for from archery to snooker, from scuba diving to wrestling, it's difficult to know where to start.

This guide will give you a taste of the best of the bunch, what's good and what's not so good. Online sports information takes several forms. There are sites and forums devoted to specific teams, the sports themselves or major events that are coming up. So whatever your sporting passion and no matter how obscure, somewhere on the Web it will be catered for.

Read all about it

The traditional source for sporting news is also making it online.

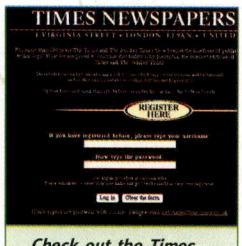
Britain's most popular racing newspaper *The Sporting Life* can be found at **http://www.sportinglife.co.uk/**. The online version contains reports from the print publication together with racing news and reports and a virtual trip around the Ascot race course. More and more British newspapers are also going online. The *Daily Telegraph*, **http://www.telegraph.co:uk/**, maintains its high standards and the online version of the *Times*, **http://www.the-times.co.uk/**, although not as comprehensive, is also worth checking out. Both are leading the way forward in newspapers going online.

Another useful general resource is run by the *Daily Mail* in conjunction with the People Bank. *Soccernet* is a bright and lively site that features lots of results, facts and figures. It includes the best football reports and a look at each Premiership club as well as a regular column from *Daily Mail* sports journalist James Foulerton. This can be found at **http://www.soccernet.com/**. The *Nando Times* has up-to-date sporting information and statistics, although from a British point of view this does take an American slant. Take a look on **http://www2.nando.net/SportServer/**.

Cricket fans love statistics and there are plenty of sites out there. One of the better ones can be found at **http://www.cricket.org:8004/**. This site

Take the chance to select your dream cricketing 11.

Fantasy Cricket
net names
registering internet domain names all over the world.
FREEPHONE 0800 269049
Schedule of matches
Rules of the game
Teams registered in the league
Popular Players
Players Scores
Latest Team Scores
Sri Lanka Wins The World Cup
David Thompson Wins The Fantasy League
Top 10 Score Team Number Team Name Owners Name
8001 350 ADSKEY1 David Thompson



Check out the Times site for sport scoops.

The Electronic Telegraph site is excellent.

electron
Front Page
UK News
International
City News
Sport
Crossword
Weather
Connected
etcetera
A-Z Help
Search
Marketplace
Pilot had warning seconds before crash
By Rahul Bedi in New Delhi
FLIGHT controllers at New Delhi airport warned a Kazakh cargo plane that a Saudi jumbo jet was heading towards it seconds before the two planes collided.
Mortar assault severs lifeline to Goma
MORTARS landed close to Goma hospital yesterday, putting a stop to the delivery of the first relief supplies
Demon Internet

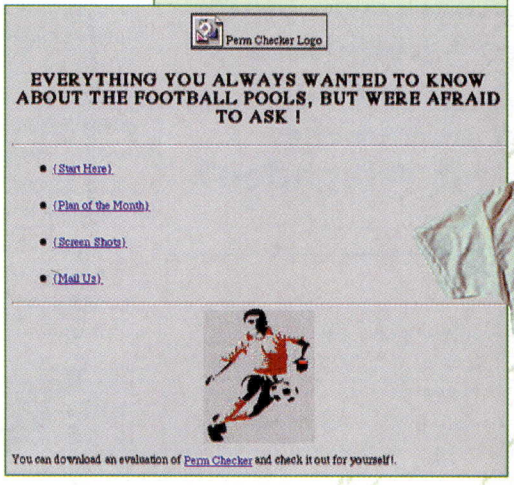
has loads of statistics and also gives lives coverage of specific events. It includes links to matches, tours, news and articles forthcoming schedules and details for upcoming tours and events.

Fantasy sports leagues have become more and more popular in the past two or three years and there is no shortage of these to be found on the Internet. Fantasy cricket can be found at **http://fantasy.cricket.co.uk/**. There are plenty of fantasy football games around too. The *Daily Mail*'s *SoccerNet* site runs the Dream League game at **http://www.dreamleague.com/football/daily_mail/** and the online version of the *Daily Telegraph* called the *Electronic Telegraph* - has its online Fantasy Football game at **http://www.telegraph.co.uk/**.

dream from time to time.

For now try the Perm Checker, **http://springsoft.com/footy/homepage.html**, which is a site where you can get a PC program to check your results on the pools. It's a no-nonsense site, purely designed to supply footy junkies with their information, which is fine in our book. Check the Zetters homepage, **http://www.zetters.co.uk/**, the all important Littlewoods Pools Online, **http://www.littlewoodspools.co.uk/index.html**, and the Vernon Pools site, **http://mailgate.ukshops.co.uk:8000/vernons/**, if you want to place your bets via the Web. All of them are well presented and may be your ticket to the holiday of a life time.

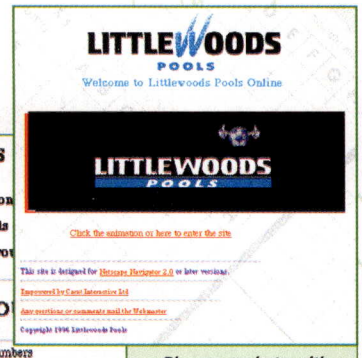
Footy is the people's game and this site helps you get something from it.


Perm Checker Logo
EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE FOOTBALL POOLS, BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK !
(Start Here)
(Plan of the Month)
(Screen Shots)
(Mail Us)
You can download an evaluation of Perm Checker and check it out for yourself!.

Going Gambling

Finally, for something a little different now the new football season is well underway, you could take a flutter with one of the many pools sites currently on the Web. After all, eight draws this weekend and you can kiss your humdrum existence goodbye... Oh well it's good to

Vernons Pools
Are you too busy to fill out a pools coupon
Do you keep missing your regular pools
Then I've got the answer for you
A STANDING ENTRY CO
This is a special coupon which allows you to enter the same numbers over a set number of weeks, e.g. 10 weeks.
Approved Collector: D. Saitch, Reference:454928
The easy steps which may win you a fortune:-
Phone me on 01268-766948 and ask for a STANDING ENTRY COUPON.
I will post you a blank coupon along with a stamped addressed envelope for return.
Fill out a set of "lucky numbers", e.g. birthdays, and return completed coupon for the number of weeks you require (minimum 5 weeks) with a cheque in favour of VERNONS POOLS in the envelope provided.
You will receive confirmation of your entry direct from VERNONS POOLS.
Then DON'T WORRY - YOUR ENTRY



Place your bets with the help of the Net and wait for your ship to come in.

SITE OF THE MONTH

The Carling Premiership

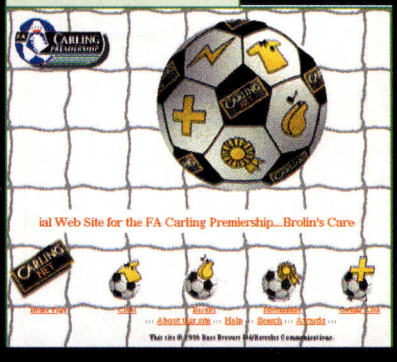
http://www.fa-carling.com/

This is the official Web site for the Premiership football league, and it shows in the quality of the opening graphics, which lead you very professionally into a full list of the Premiership sides via club flags placed on a map of Great Britain.

Each Premiership team is given its own comprehensive section with details on results, forthcoming fixtures, team news, players information, history, merchandise and, of course, footy competitions galore to test and tease your brain, all offering free tickets to matches. So not only can you trawl through all the pages and pages of informative and exciting football news on your beloved team, you can also test your knowledge as well. In fact, the only thing that betters the quantity of the information on offer is the quality of it. It will keep your average football fan/ Net junkie occupied for hours on end.

The beauty of having a different section for each club is that you can concentrate fully on enjoying and looking through pages and pages of information just about your footy team.

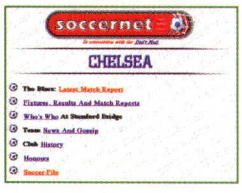
One of the best sports sites you'll find.



The site is vast and you might have to be prepared to wait a while if you want to download anything from the site but the graphics are good. For up-to-date news, views, team statistics and information you can't really match this site. There is something to interest every football fan because the data on offer is so accurate, including all the latest stories and bits of gossip on your favourite footballer. This is an informative site, so simply kick off with Carling's site you won't go far wrong.

Missed a footy result or want to know who your team have just signed? Well there's countless Internet pages out there to fill you in on all latest stories, but which sites put one in the onion bag and which are heading for relegation?

Currently Soccernet is looking at each of the teams taking part in the Premiership.



Soccernet

We kick off this guide with a clearly amazing site, taking most competitors out of the running. *Soccernet* is currently focusing on each and every team in the Premier League. Each of the 20 participating clubs have been given their own page where scores, news, match and player reports are displayed. The most worthwhile links go to the latest match details which, give or take a match, are fairly up to date. After moving on from the first page, with images of team shirts, the design takes a stumble downhill with large text and hyper links, making it slightly unattractive to say the least. Sadly those of you with the intention of going here and finding pictures will be disappointed as there are hardly any. However, if you've been cut off from news and are gagging for the latest on your team, or want to know who's signed who, *Soccernet* hits the target.

Address: http://www.soccernet.com/

Rating:

Did you know that Dani Behr supports the Gunners?

The Famous Football Supporters Page

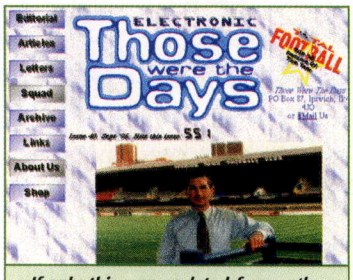
Ever wondered what football team your favourite TV, radio or pop star supports? Well wonder no more, because this page reveals all. For example, Jimmy Tarbuck predictably supports Liverpool, *Monty Python* star John Cleese performs the silly walk for West Ham United and *The Word's* Dani Behr goes wild when the Arsenal squad run onto the pitch? Hundreds of personalities are listed and just in case you don't know who's who, some have a brief description for you. The major fault here isn't with the awful background, but the way in which they're divided up. Rather than just listing them under TV, music etc, it would have been far more sensible to maybe put them into various orders with hotlinks at the top to save scrolling down. As it is, you'll have to make do with the find option which comes with your browser. A couple of small photos would have been nice to identify some of the less well known celebs. Still, not bad, just needs tidying up.

Address: http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/MARTINP/thefamou.htm

Rating:

Electronic Those Were The Days

At first glance, this Ipswich online magazine looked to be the business. But, after delving deeper I found that rather than being a regularly updated, informative resource for fans of the club, it was in fact a lame site, with dead links and big logos making it look like there was a lot on offer. The last update was back in September and I'm sure that there must have been some action in the Ipswich camp since then? I'm probably being slightly unfair, as there are a couple of quite lengthy interviews to read, but like I mentioned, these are old news now and supporters aren't going



If only this was updated frequently it would be pretty good.

to want to read something that's already worthy of entering an archive. To be quite honest, it would be more worthwhile just buying the magazine from the shelves and, as always, there's subscription details here. You can even buy a t-shirt. Why is it that the workable links are always the ones trying to sell you something?

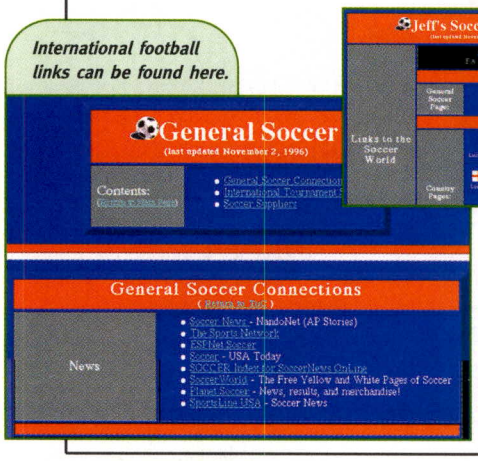
Address: http://homepages.enterprise.net/gavinwilding/etwtd/index.html

Rating:

Jeff's Soccer Central

Instead of looking at one team, or spending time watching out for results to display on his page, Jeff has decided to scout the Net, enabling him to create his own links page. Unlike average hot links sites, which decide to just chuck a few links on a page with no organisation, as you'll see, Jeff has taken the opposite approach. The look may not be exactly amazing, but it is a great place to find all kinds of soccer related home pages on the Web. Rather than just listing English leagues, foreign tournaments are covered with Italian, US, Chinese and Turkish among some of the countries within. As a lot of the sites mentioned are overseas, Jeff has also included information on what language the text is in. He also doesn't just leave his links to fester, the last update was just a day prior to my visit. Not bad at all.

International football links can be found here.



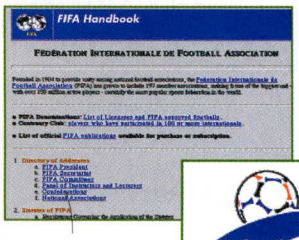
Address: http://www.cheme.cornell.edu/~jwillits/

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

FIFA

What would we do without FIFA? Well, their importance is enforced at their official home page. As you can imagine, the site is a HTML masterpiece – not too many images, plus plenty of news and information on forthcoming tournaments from all around the world. If the images at the site are causing your modem to enter spasm mode then a text only option has been created. Of course, 1998 sees the start of the World Cup, which will be held in France, and those out to get a preview get their chance here. Media releases will give users a chance to view latest stories, but most of these are quite boring. Really the site looks at the game on an international scale, so don't log on thinking that you'll be flooded with pictures of Eric Cantona or Ian Wright. Very good, but more for the serious fan than average division team supporter.

FIFA are getting prepared for the 1998 World Cup in France.



Address: http://www.fifa.com

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Premiership Teams

Manchester United

Run within the brilliant Sky Sports home page, Red Devil fans will love this slick site with match reports and plenty of data on new signings and current players. Shoots... scores!

Address: http://www.sky.co.uk/sports/manu/meta.htm

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◆

Liverpool - The Mighty Reds

Although not as attractive as the Man U site, this unofficial Liverpool page will still be popular with roaring fans. Everything from the latest news to MPEG movie downloads can be found.

Address: http://www.connect.org.uk/anfield

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Leeds United

Currently under construction, supporters of this club may want to check back in a few weeks to see how the page is coming along. At the moment though there's not much here to read or look at.

Address: http://www.csc.liv.ac.uk/~tim/leeds/

Rating: ◆◇◇◇◇

The Electronic Arsenal Fanzine

With sections names like Anorak Corner and Tossers, I knew that this site would be fun. And yes, it's pretty good. Very image heavy, but a lot different from other footy sites. Great!

Address: http://easyweb.easynet.co.uk/~garycraig/

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Jax's Chelsea Web Page

Another fantastic effort, again from a fan of a top Premiership club. There are loads and loads of links, going to video clips, background data, player information – the list goes on and on. Stunning.

Address: http://www.jack.dircon.net/chelsea/

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◆

Official Sunderland Football Club Home Page

Not fantastic, but yet again, another Premiership club with a fairly impressive presence on the Net. Sunderland fans can read up on the latest news and view images on their idols. Could do with a little bit of a sparkle though.

Address: http://www.sunderland.com/safc/

Rating: ◆◆◇◇

Newcastle United Football Club

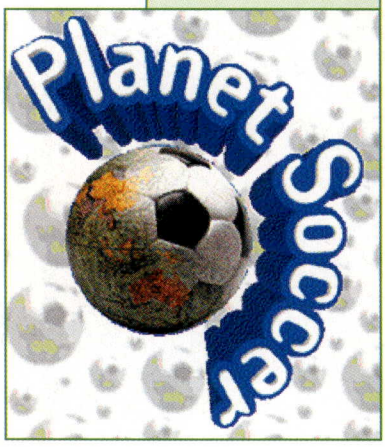
Geordies will no doubt be bookmarking this, the Official Newcastle FC home page. Packed with all kinds of information, at points it's very nice to look at, but other pages are a disappointment. Youngsters will love the junior Magpies area.

Address: http://alpha.communicata.co.uk/nufc

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Planet Soccer

Beware, there are a lot of bif images here.



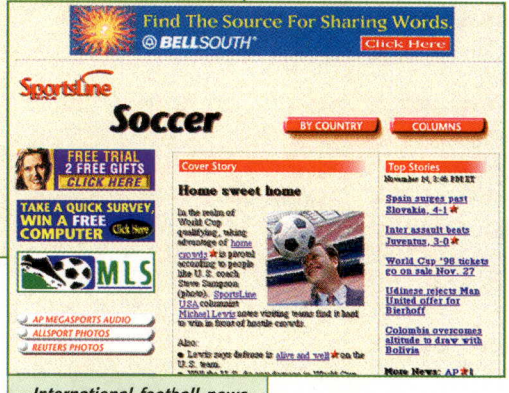
Don't ask me why, but I expected a lot from this site. Loading up the page, the graphics looked great, but there was one problem – there were loads of them! Not content with just a few odd photos and logos, almost everything here was an image. I was using a 33.6 connection and it bares to think how those with 14.4s will take to the site. If you do happen to own a fast modem then some of the areas you can take a look around include News, Results & Fixtures and Teams, all of which cover clubs from countries all around the planet, hence the name. Competitions are also on the menu and when I visited you could win $1000. As long as you can cope with the downloading times, the content is worth waiting for, although if you're looking for something specific, like UK club info, it's better to go elsewhere.

Address: http://www.planet-soccer.com.au/

Rating:

SportsLine USA – Soccer

Part of the Sportsline USA home page, this soccer section not only takes a look at the American team, but also clubs from all around the world. It's more of a place to come for news than detailed team and player profiles. Although by using the Countries link, it will inform users of the latest news, whether from Argentina, England or Chile. The main page does have a couple of images on it, but these aren't pointless and always relate to the stories in the limelight at the time. *SportsLine USA – Soccer* is really the place to be if you're in search of international news, rather than just over here in the UK. They've got a big team working on the site, so you can expect updates every day which makes a change. Of course, due to the site being American, you will come across quite a bit of data on their squad.



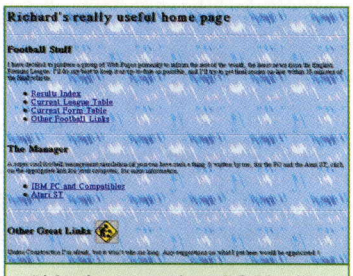
International football news is on the menu here.

Address: http://ps2.sportsline.com/u/soccer/index.html

Rating:

Richard Johnson's Home Page

At one time, Richard must have put a lot of work into his home page. After May though, his results, team standings and links have been left to rot and sadly for visitors, no updates have been made. Even with the sites awful background image and poor presentation, it is very quick to download and the information is easy accessible. However, unless you really want to know about a result that happened between August 1995 and May 1996, or need a few links to UK clubs, it's a good idea to avoid this and travel elsewhere. Hopefully, Richard will come out of his hiding place, get his act together and start updating again. If he did then there's no reason for the site not to get a good score. Maybe it was the competition from *Carling Net* that did it - who knows?



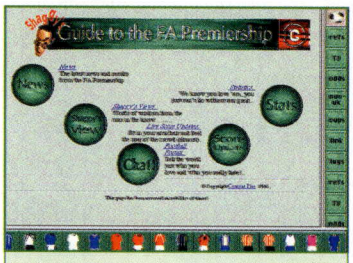
Richard seems to have left his site for dead, the last updates were made back in May. Oh dear.

Address: http://dspace.dial.pipex.com/r-johnson/home.html

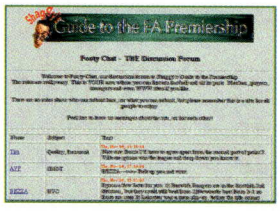
Rating:

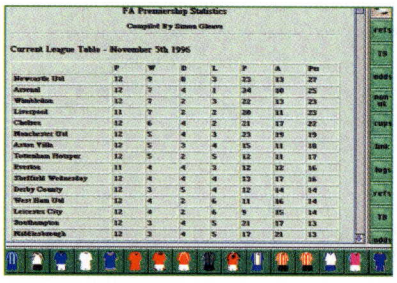
Shaggy's Guide to the FA Premiership

After Shaggy has detected your browser, the main site will either load or you will be forced to use a link, taking you to a different version without all the framed bits. I was completely amazed by Shaggy's effort. The main page comprises of loads of links, from team shirts in a scrolling frame at the bottom to another 11 on the right hand side. Five main links take up the space in the middle and will kick you to Stats, Score Update, News, Shaggy's View and finally chat - that's a compete total of 36 pages in all. Clicking on any of the shirts will bring up plenty of information, like fixtures for '96/97, squad details and even a background on the selected team. It also has data on what matches Sky TV are televising, plus a chat area will give you the chance to slate other users teams! Overall, Shaggy has put a lot of work into this and it really pays off. The content easily competes with Carling's effort and this is the home page to bookmark if you're following the Premiership. Hats off and all that.



Shaggy is constantly working hard on his football site to make sure that visitors go back for more.



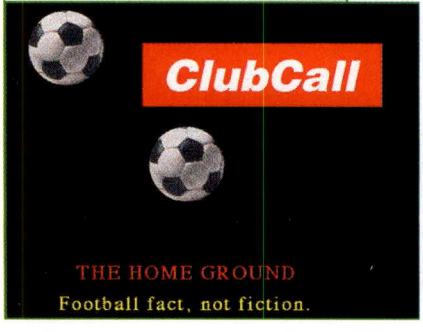


Address: http://www.city.ac.uk/~sh393/prem/frames.htm
Rating: ◆◆◆◆◆

ClubCall Home Ground

Just like its Ceefax counterpart, the pages of *ClubCall* are awful. Exceptions can be made for Ceefax, but not for this. Similar to Shaggy's effort, *ClubCall* also includes fixtures information, transfer data and more. It doesn't though, just look at the Premiership, other teams in lower divisions also get coverage. There are also a couple of nice areas like Quotes, which was a nice touch. Sadly though, the whole look of the site is quite terrible. Colours have been carelessly mixed, pointless logos fill the pages and it's an overall sloppy and badly put together mess. They obviously know that there's a problem because they are meant to be launching a new, revitalised site. That will hopefully be online by the time you're reading this. For the time being though, I'd use Shaggy's site as your main footy resource.

ClubCall looks about as good as the Ceefax pages that it's taken from.



Address: http://clubcall.com/
Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

Premiership Teams

Park Life - Blackburn Rovers

The loss of Alan Shearer doesn't seem to be damaging the swing of Blackburn FC's site. Move over links and watch as they come to life. Could do with a little more content to enthrall fans.
Address: http://www.rovers.co.uk/
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Tottenham Hotspur FC

Oh dear, oh dear. Poor images, large text, awful borders and mainly links. Even for a fan site, this is very dull indeed. Supporters stay clear, there could be a riot.
Address: http://www.sun.mdx.ac.uk/~simon13/spurs.html
Rating: ◆◇◇◇◇

The Aston Villa Supporters' Site

Despite not being as attractive as the rest, this site has loads of information that has been categorised and tidily placed on the main page. Apart from a couple of pointless images, Villa followers should make this their first port of call.
Address: http://www.gbar.dtu.dk/~c937079/AVFC/
Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

John's Wimbledon FC Page

Sadly it seems that John is well out of his league. Wimbledon may be on sad side anyway, (hi Vinny) but there's no need for the poor presentation and slim data that's provided here.
Address: http://www.soi.city.ac.uk/homes/ec564/dons.top.html
Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

Nottingham Forest Football Club

Even with this site being grey and with just one image, it still seemed to take ages to load. That and the dull look aside, you won't be disappointed by the amount of text.
Address: http://unix.ccc.nottingham.ac.uk/~cczmffc/NFFC.html
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

West Ham United FC

I don't know about the bubble filled background and initial logo, but the rest seems pretty good. Six main links, data varies from News to Fixtures and Reports.
Address: http://www.dungeon.com/~express/whu.html
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Richard Findlay's Leicester City Page

Whether you're in search of news or want to know who Leicester are playing this framed page should do the trick. Mainly text based.
Address: http://www.dungeon.com/~express/whu.html
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Vroom! We're off once again, this time to cover the best and worst motor sport sites on the Internet. Rev up your engines, strap yourself in and get ready for the ride of your life...

UK Karting

A good site dedicated to providing data on UK Karting.

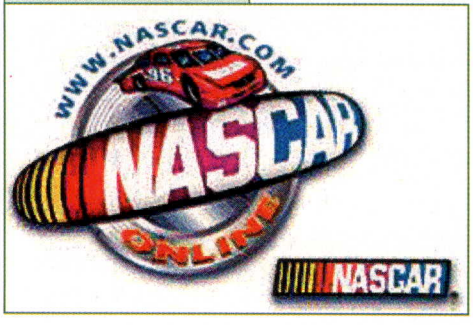
Whether at a seaside venue or professional track, karting is popular at any age. Of course, over the past few years it's grown dramatically and become a highly competitive sport. I came over quite a few American sites, so was glad to drag one out which concentrated on karting in the UK. It covers everything related to the sport including the typical news, results events and links. The best area for people interested in taking part is the Tracks link. This will take you to a list of karting courses in Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales. Each track listed has a contact number, plus, if a home page is available, there's a link going there. Special features are also regularly included if you fancy a bit of a longer read. The look isn't all that bad, but could definitely do with tidying up. Ideal for UK speed freaks.

Address: http://www.karting.co.uk/

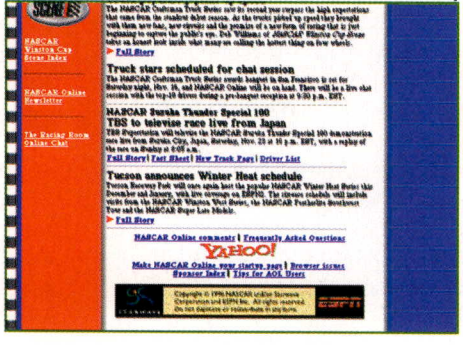
Rating:

NASCAR Online

This official site leaves the rest in the pit lane.



Nascar racing is hugely popular in the States, and this official home page has been around for some time now. It hasn't changed much, still pretty impressive looks wise. Main news articles are located prominently in the middle of the screen with the main nine links, News, Results, Standings, Teams, Tracks, Schedules, Fans, Garage and Store, put to one side. Like most big sites, there's an option to have a text only version of the front page which helps save time. A mainly text only page gives Nascar enthusiast the chance to express their views in a chat area. Simply use the provided forms to type in your text and then submit it. Although when I visited, there wasn't much talk about the sport! Also, if you'd rather not load up the page every week to read the latest reports, a news letter can be sent to you via email.

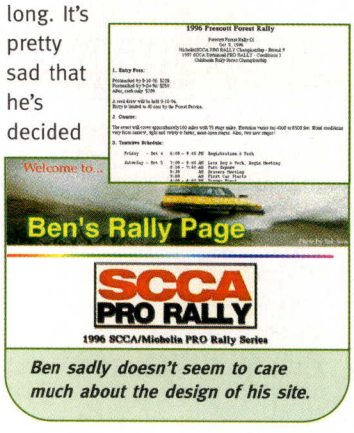

Truck stars scheduled for chat session
NASCAR Swahs Thunder Special 100
TBS to televise race live from Japan
Tucson announces Winter Heat schedule

Address: http://www.nascar.com/

Rating:

Ben's Rally Page

Another very popular sport that gets quite a few spectators is Rallying and one follower named Ben has gone to the trouble of covering the 1996 SCCA Pro Rally in the States. He's obviously not that worried about making his page stunning and hasn't made use of any plug-ins or browser effects, in fact the majority of it is very basic. A collection of rally reviews can be found from the Sandhills Sandblast PRO Rally to The Little Creek Casino Pacific Forest Rally. Each SCCA report is very comprehensive and very long. It's pretty sad that he's decided not to do some research and include some images and this makes it on the dull side. He's also put together a full report of 1996 pro rallies and if you're interested in selling or buying a car then there's also a classified ads section to check out. Quite good, very fast, just needs a bit of magic to make it look better.



Ben sadly doesn't seem to care much about the design of his site.

Address: http://www.reed.edu/~bradley/

Rating:

European Tractor Pulling Committee

About as exciting as forking compost!

Calling out to all farmers! This is the official site For The European Tractor Pulling Committee and is pretty sad to say the least. One would expect some photos of the tractors taking part but fans of the sport will be disappointed by the lack of pictures altogether. All the pages are mainly text based but this information won't really attract UK visitors. There's no information on how to get started in the sport or who to contact, it's just a frenzy of boring statistics and I was really quite disappointed. I was hoping to come here, get a few photos for my desktop and then maybe buy a tractor and take part – no such luck. There are a few links if you really want to get involved but I really came here to have a laugh and I certainly got that. Pages are dull, but I suppose that the farmer doing the HTML had more important things to do, like milking his cows... or something!

1996 Final Euro Cup & Championship Results
1996 European Championship Results
Juvre - Finland
0.9 Ton Mini Pullers
2.4 Ton Modified
3.4 Ton Super Stock
3.4 Ton Modified

Address: http://www.tractorpulling.com/
Rating: ◆◇◇◇◇

Official Site of the Le Mans 24 Hour Race

It seems that the 1996 Le Mans Race has come to an end, but fear not! If you desperately want to know the results, view quicktime movies and photos then as long as you've got version 2.0 of Netscape you should be able to pop in and catch the information before the site is updated to cover the 1997 race. Hopefully it will be even more exciting than the last. You do really get a feel for the sport when entering the site. Logos and links are all car related and at every opportunity, the authors have tried to add the sense of speed with flashy images. There's plenty of information including results and team information, and if you want to express your feelings towards the drivers or organisers then a forum has also been set up. Worth bookmarking for '97 but it's old news now.

Getting ready for the 1997 Le Mans race.

Address: http://www.24h-le-mans.com/en/index.html
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Formula 1

Williams Renault

If driving a Williams Renault car is as easy as driving through their site, it's little wonder Damon Hill walked off with the Championship this year!
Address: http://www.connect.ca/formula1/
Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Ferrari

The blood red and eye-catching pages of this site exude Italian style and are a must for any F1 enthusiast.
Address: http://www.ferrari.it/homeferr.html
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Tyrrell Yamaha

Loads of links providing information on the drivers, cars and of course what's happening concerning the championship. If you like you can have a text only version to save time. Nicely put together!
Address: http://www.tyrrellf1.com/
Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Web F1 - Formula 1 - Homepage

Fantastic home page looking at each of the teams, the drivers and you can be sure that they're already roaring their engines for the new season. It's also offered in four languages.
Address: http://www.f1-online.com/
Rating: ◆◆◆◆◆

Damon Hill

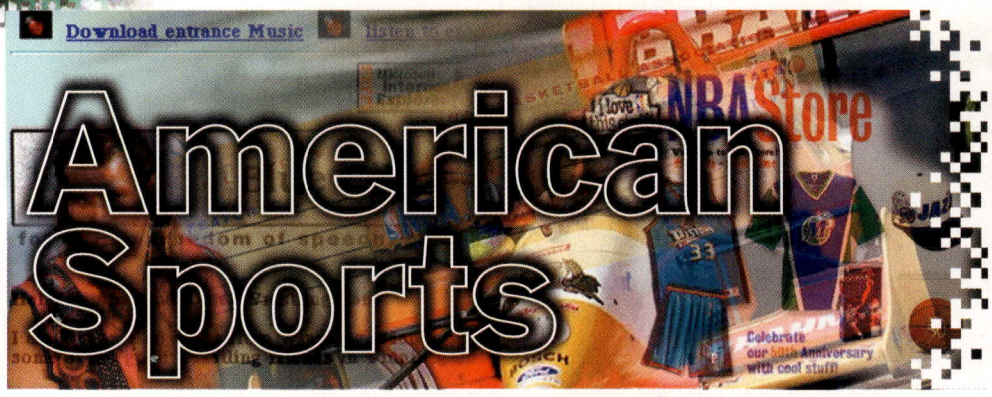
After you've selected whether or not you want frames on or off, you enter the site to find a tribute to the 1996 world champion. Very small but worth a quick read.
Address: http://www.geocities.com/MotorCity/4236/
Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

Aryton Senna, A Racing Legend

Aryton was an inspiration to other drivers and this is one of many sites dedicated to him and his driving career. It's been put together very well (with frames) and includes plenty of photos and quotes from the track after he died at Imola.
Address: http://www.ozemail.com.au/~veeking/senna.html
Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

ICNSportsWeb.com

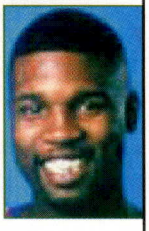
This streamlined home page is ideal for anyone needing to catch up on the latest F1 news. You can expect a lot from the eight links offered. Big and fast!
Address: http://www.icnsportsweb.com/
Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇



American Sports

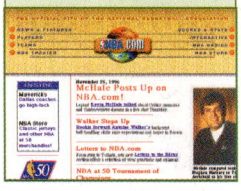
Time for a bit of a change. We've covered the typical English game of football, but what do American sport sites have on offer? We sent Simon Lovell to the virtual United States of America to find out more!

National Basketball Association



Be it a slam dunk or amazing pass that manages to clinch the victory, you can be sure that the official NBA home page will cover any hot news in the growing sport of basketball. Each team in the league is covered, with information on what they've been getting up to – a backlog of their statistics is stored there also. Java has been put to use on the main page, with headlines rotating, giving you a full picture of the latest news. Plenty of multimedia can be found, including movie, sound and pictures files, making this one of the biggest sports sites on the Net. Also, if you want to get kitted out, then an NBA store will ensure you're looking cool in selected basketball gear. British users will make the most out the pages because there's not as much TV coverage as there could be. This is the ideal point to collect weekly reports and get a complete rundown on all the back board smashes and super shots.

The official NBA site is massive and includes plenty of team info.



Address: http://www.geocities.com/Colosseum/3507/bearframe.htm

Rating:

National Hockey League

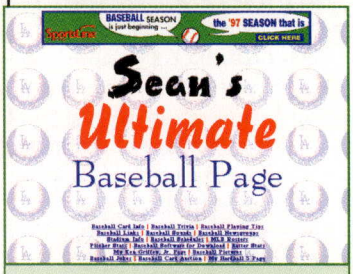
NHL fans will warm to this official helping.

The National Hockey League's site (or NHL for short) is similar to the NBA home page, but, of course, instead of focusing on men jumping up and down, this one takes to the ice for more brutal action! Those owning slower connections should avoid this, as most of what you see on the main page is an image rather than text. Luckily, other pages aren't so congested. The usual team and player information can be found and there's the great addition of an Interactive Forum which includes FAQs, Letters to the Editor and Make a Difference, the chance for you to air your views about the site. Cool Shots is the main download area that packs the weeks best video clips together and these are available for either PC or Macintosh. It may not be as big as the NBA page but you're not going to find a better National Hockey League site than this, so send your puck in this direction.

Address: http://www.geocities.com/Colosseum/3507/bearframe.htm

Rating:

Sean's Ultimate Baseball Page

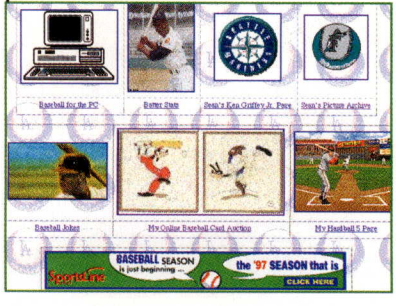


Sean has put a lot of time into this great baseball site which offers everything from photos to schedules and sound files.

Despite including a few dead links here and there, Sean has pulled his weight with this, his "Ultimate" Basketball Site, which is really quite good. Just by looking at the amount of links, it's obvious that he has a strong interest in the sport. The links created include; Baseball Trivia, Playing Tips, Sounds, Schedules, Newsgroups, Jokes, Stadium Info, there's even software to download. Wow! Although all the links may be a strong point to note, Sean has wrongly decided to put lots of pictures on the main page to assist links. Smaller logos would have been far more economical, especially for low end users who will no doubt be crying themselves to sleep, because the page won't load within 20 minutes of typing in the URL. The look of the pages varies. Most are pretty boring overall, but true fans will come here for the information rather than the presentation. Worth making a visit.

Address: http://www.rain.org/~ssa/sean/index.html

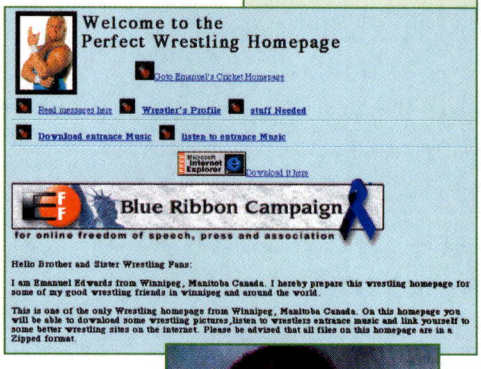
Rating:

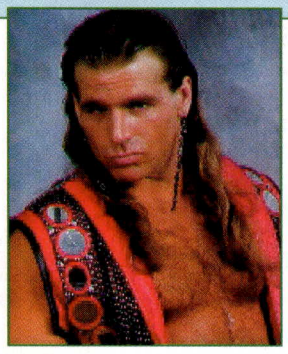


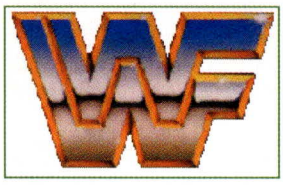
The Perfect Wrestling Home Page

Sadly fans of the WWF won't find much here of interest.

Ever since the departure of Big Daddy on Saturday lunchtime TV, Wrestling has never been the same! Now for loyal fans there's the WWF, where fighters get locked in coffins and get hit over the knees with large metal objects... and carry on. One person who's decided to create a page in favour of such acts is Emanuel. Here you will be able to view wrestler profiles, download intro themes and generally get the low-down on the sport. It's pretty lame to say the least. Pages are badly presented and due to the mix of background image and text you'll find it almost impossible to read the text through your browser. If you are that keen on the sport then there are far more detailed sites out there, it's just a bit of a grapple to find them. Out for the count I'm afraid, far from perfect.


Welcome to the
Perfect Wrestling Homepage
Goto Emanuel's Cricket Homepage
Read messages here
Wrestler's Profile
stuff Needed
Download entrance Music
listen to entrance Music
Download it here
Blue Ribbon Campaign
for online freedom of speech, press and association
Hello Brother and Sister Wrestling Fans:
I am Emanuel Edwards from Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada. I hereby prepare this wrestling homepage for some of my good wrestling friends in winnipeg and around the world.
This is one of the only Wrestling homepage from Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada. On this homepage you will be able to download some wrestling pictures,listen to wrestlers entrance music and link yourself to some better wrestling sites on the internet. Please be advised that all files on this homepage are in a Zipped format.



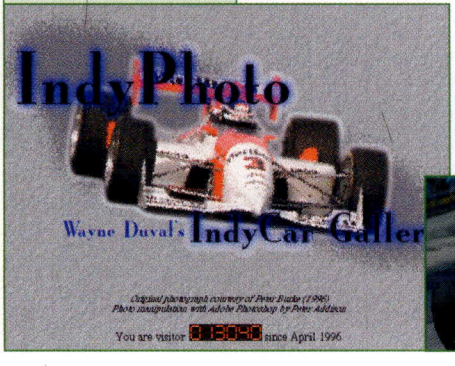


Address: http://www.pangea.ca/~emanuel/brawler.html
Rating:

IndyPhoto

As you have probably gathered by the name of the site, this is an Indy Car picture resource. So, before entering, make sure that you can handle photos... lots of 'em. Rather than just allowing the images to load with no warning, thumbnails are provided for you to get a sneak preview of them. The photos vary from Indy car drivers to full on action shots of the track. You can select one of four main groups, each containing several different drivers. Then each thumbnail is accompanied with date and location information, although it's not until you click on this that you find out the size of it. The quality of the these are awful, but you'll find a dramatic change when loading up the main image. The sizes vary, but most are around 70 to 100k. It's a shame that there's no raw information, which would make it brilliant, although if you came here for some action images you'd be happy!

Loads of Indy car action shots are here.



Address: http://www.indyphoto.com/
Rating:

American Football

National Football League

Every padded warrior can be found at this official NFL site. It's massive, brilliantly presented and an essential bookmark for head clashing fanatics.
Address: http://www.nfl.com/
Rating:

Curt Fennell's Dolphins Page

Out of the millions of loyal Dolphin fans out there, Curt has decided to create his own site following the movements of the team. Very good site, informative and updated frequently.
Address: http://kalypso.cybercom.net/~cfennell/Dolphins/
Rating:

The Unofficial Buffalo Bills Home Page 96

A very cluttered site which makes it hard to see if what you've gone here for is actually included. Under the hordes of links I did find some game reviews, previews and reports.
Address: http://www.gobills.com/
Rating:

Dan Marino Central

Very nicely presented site, dedicated to the footy star Dan Marino. Plenty of pictures and news, you can even download some movie clips if you want. OK.
Address: http://www-personal.umich.edu/~vittosc/marino/marino.htm
Rating:

49ers On the Gate

It seems that the San Francisco 49ers are the most popular team in the NFL and this site not only includes current reports but also makes use of Read Audio, so make sure you get it before visiting.
Address: http://www.sfgate.com/sports/49ers/
Rating:

Big Blue Wrecking Crew

Hardly up to standard in terms of design but New York Giants fans will be thankful for the easily accessible areas which look at everything from schedules to ticket availability. Of course, there's plenty of pictures for your desktop.
Address: http://www.bbwc.com/
Rating:

The Bears Den

Normally Geocities sites are pretty dismal, but this is one worth looking at. Links include team stats, roster, depth chart, coaching and front office. If you visit, be prepared for frames.
Address: http://www.geocities.com/Colosseum/3507/
Rating:

HOT N

With the Web expanding daily there are literally thousands of sites with resources of various kinds to explore, Gary Joyce finds some new areas for you to explore...

When I was asked to do the resources section of the magazine I was momentarily stumped; "What's a resource then?" I found myself asking our editor. "Stuff like disability access, software and Teaching Modules." he replied.

Still feeling none the wiser, I started up my trusty PC, opened up a couple of search engines and started my quest for true resource enlightenment.

"Yahoo have a full index of live events which are coming up on the Web"

I found a wealth of teaching modules, which I have included in this months section on education, and having done that I realised I had no sites left for this particular section of my guide.

Undaunted, I looked in my trusty dictionary, yes, even computer operators sometimes have to resort to paper resources, and found the following definition of resource, "a supply or source of aid or support", which actually means most of the Web; even software can be taken as an aid or support to someone.

Since the title of this section is New Resources, I thought that I would look around for new sites, and live or interactive media.

Yahoo have a full index of live events which are coming up on the Web, unfortunately the vast majority of all live services seem to be slanted at the American user, but if you're into interactive services then **http://events.yahoo.com/events.html** is a good place to start your search.

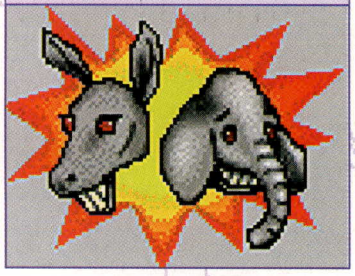
All the scheduled events are set for E.S.T, which is 5 hours behind Greenwich Mean Time, if you want to join in.

Non-live, but fully interactive, **http://events.yahoo.com/ongoing.html** has ongoing discussions about world events and news topics. On the news theme, the latest news and views from around the world, as well as archived reports can be found at **http://www.topnews.com/**

All the latest sites on Lycos can be accessed at **http://www.lycos.com/net2net.html**, unfortunately when I visited this site there were no new pages to view, just their Halloween Hall of Horror. It is always disappointing to search the Web without finding anything, or finding old and out-dated links. This has become a wide spread problem over the last 18 months or so, with the explosion of awareness about the Web, people are registering sites to search engines, and then failing to alert the engines when they remove the site. This also may be something that the newly formed ISPA should take on board. Would they be able to monitor sites which come offline due to customers moving ISP's or losing access due to non-payment of account?

A service which always seems

There are loads of games to play at the Shockwaves site...



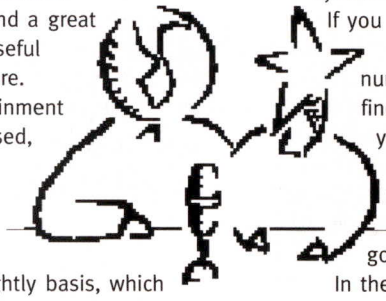
Plus the latest Shockwave applets to download.

This site could do with being updated on a more regular basis.

Need a resource? Let Yahoo help you out.

EW SITES CLICK HERE!

to have updated links is the *Compass Pathfinder*, **http://pathfinder.com**. This is a membership based system, but membership is totally free, so don't be put off by that. I've been a member for several months and find a great deal of very useful information here. Mostly entertainment and sports-based, this service includes an email mag, sent out on a roughly fortnightly basis, which tells you about new sites and discussions on *Pathfinder*.



On the multi-media side of new resources, **http://www.sabroco.com/web96/shockwave.html** has all the latest Shockwave interactive units, which can always be fun and you can even get the site authors to write you your own shockwave interactive applets.

Also taking off in a big way on the Web are reference services, with the entry of *Yellow Pages* and other similar directory-based information services into the online world. We are now able to sit at our computers without ever having to look at paper resources. Yes, there are even dictionaries on English usage on the Web now, you can find one at the Grammar Doctor at **http://w3.one.net/~sparks25/gdoctor.html**.

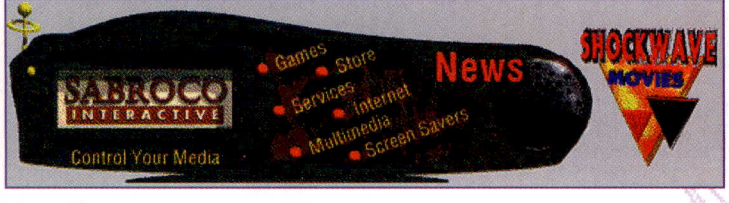
On a less cerebral and more fun level, you can now find out what your phone number spells at **http://www.best.com/~jgro/phoneSpell.shtml**, unfortunately I can't tell you what my phone number spells, since it has got two zeros in it, which aren't represented on the alpha-numeric system that phones use. If you don't have zeros in your phone number then you can find out the words your own number represents – not much use I know, but always good for a laugh!

In the reference field we also find an increase in new sites, including on-line atlases and encyclopedia, among others. A pretty comprehensive list of sites can be found on Yahoo at **http://www.yahoo.com/Reference/**.

Having a passion for books and literature, I could read at three years old, I feel that one of the most important roles of the Web is to interest people in subjects they might otherwise ignore. We should not lose our reading skills in the search for ever more graphical Web sites.

It is always true to say high quality presentation is important and, with Java and HTML 3 being updated almost weekly, the general presentation of the Web will inevitably continue to improve. However, content is also an essential ingredient, especially if the Web is to appeal to the more cerebral pursuits and interests. With all that in mind, this month's selected reviews for the resources section include an in-depth look at the different types of electronic literature currently on offer.

The Sabroco navigation map will take you where you want to go...

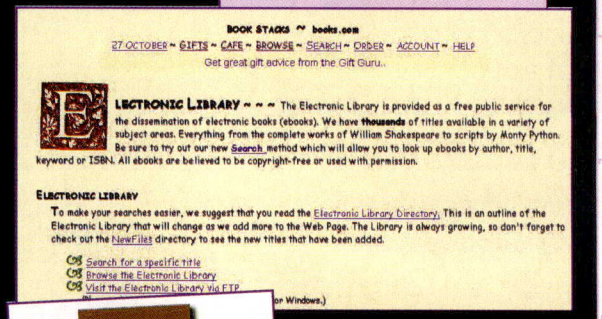


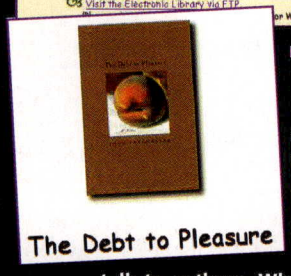
SITE OF THE MONTH

Books stacks

http://www.books.com/scripts/lib.exe

This is a service designed to make literature easily accessible.


BOOK STACKS ~ books.com
27 OCTOBER ~ GIFTS ~ CAFE ~ BROWSE ~ SEARCH ~ ORDER ~ ACCOUNT ~ HELP
Get great gift advice from the Gift Guru..
ELECTRONIC LIBRARY ~ ~ ~ The Electronic Library is provided as a free public service for the dissemination of electronic books (ebooks). We have thousands of titles available in a variety of subject areas. Everything from the complete works of William Shakespeare to scripts by Monty Python. Be sure to try out our new Search method which will allow you to look up ebooks by author, title, keyword or ISBN. All ebooks are believed to be copyright-free or used with permission.
ELECTRONIC LIBRARY
To make your searches easier, we suggest that you read the Electronic Library Directory. This is an outline of the Electronic Library that will change as we add more to the Web Page. The Library is always growing, so don't forget to check out the NewFiles directory to see the new titles that have been added.
Search for a specific title
Browse the Electronic Library
Visit the Electronic Library via FTP
or Windows.)

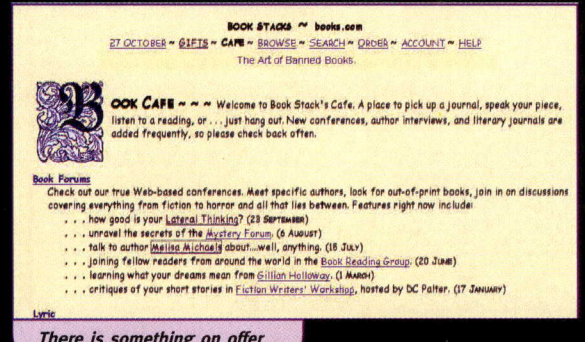


The electronic Library – a service provided for the dissemination of electronic books (ebooks). This site includes search facilities and a browser. Also here is the Café, where you can meet and talk to authors. When I visited the site the author in question was Melisa Michaels, who I'm afraid I've never even heard of before, but that's the joy of the Web – you can find new things which you otherwise might never have happened upon.

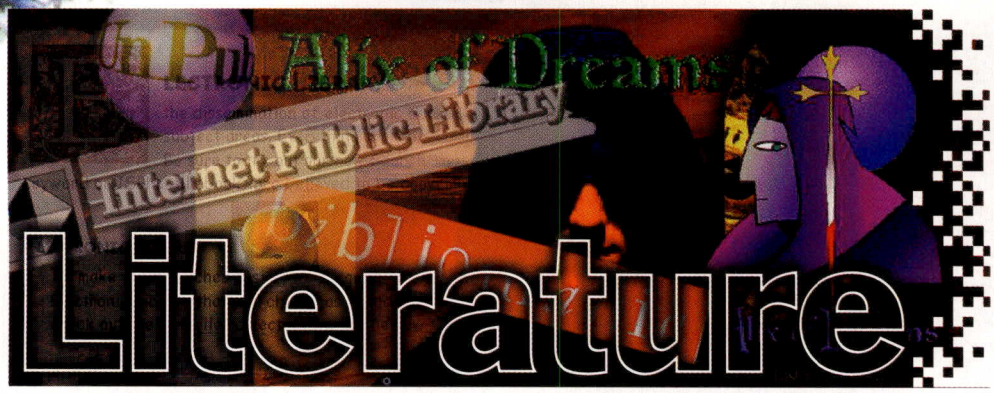
Also at the café is a forum and the topic at the moment is lateral thinking. It was a subject I didn't feel up to replying to, since I have not read the work which was being referred to. However, there were some interesting responses. It's always good to come across a Web site which has interaction at all levels, and this one is superb.

Well designed; not overly graphical, but I loved the Illuminations, this is a lovely touch, and makes the site well worth bookmarking even if you aren't particularly interested in literature.

If you're looking for an idea for a gift for someone who reads a lot, then there is a section for you to browse, which has 11 categories of book on offer, including gardening and fiction, so it really is ideal for any taste. Quite simply a vast site, with a host of areas of interest to most if not all users. The deserved winner of the site of the month award.


BOOK STACKS ~ books.com
27 OCTOBER ~ GIFTS ~ CAFE ~ BROWSE ~ SEARCH ~ ORDER ~ ACCOUNT ~ HELP
The Art of Banned Books.
BOOK CAFE ~ ~ ~ Welcome to Book Stack's Cafe. A place to pick up a journal, speak your piece, listen to a reading, or . . . just hang out. New conferences, author interviews, and literary journals are added frequently, so please check back often.
Book Forums
Check out our true Web-based conferences. Meet specific authors, look for out-of-print books, join in on discussions covering everything from fiction to horror and all that lies between. Features right now include:
. . . how good is your Lateral Thinking? (23 SEPTEMBER)
. . . unravel the secrets of the Mystery Forum. (6 AUGUST)
. . . talk to author Melisa Michaels about...well, anything. (18 JULY)
. . . joining fellow readers from around the world in the Book Reading Group. (20 JUNE)
. . . learning what your dreams mean from Gillian Holloway. (1 MARCH)
. . . critiques of your short stories in Fiction Writers' Workshop, hosted by DC Palter. (17 JANUARY)
Lyric

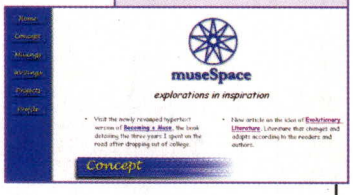
There is something on offer for readers of all tastes.



'To Net or not to Net? That is the question.' Or can literature on the Web ever recreate the grandiose ideals of the mighty written word?

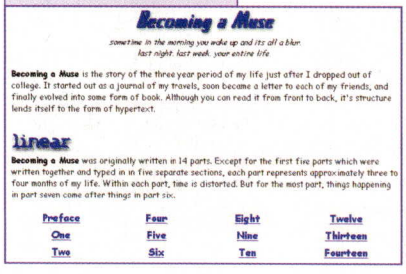
Musespace

If you fancy a muse, stop of at this site.



Set up by someone who dropped out and has now dropped back in again (how San Franciscan!) this site was set up to explore the meaning of inspiration. Throughout history people have tried to get to grips with inspiration, from the Greek Muses right to the present day, creative artists have always tried to define how they reached their goals, what really inspired them, and so on. Well designed and laid out, the subject is gone into in some depth. I'm normally not a fan of philosophical musings, on the grounds that most philosophy is espoused by drunken saddos in Public Houses (yes, I have worked as a barman, and those people can be very boring), but this guy has really got his head around literature and the possibilities for creative works within an electronic format, with particular emphasis on Web-based resources.

A totally brilliant and inspirational site

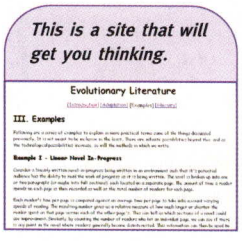


Well worth a visit by anyone interested in the future of literature in the online world. A wealth of well read information and ideas.

Address: http://www.musespace.com/welcome.html

Rating: £ £ £ £ £

This is a site that will get you thinking.



Bibliomania

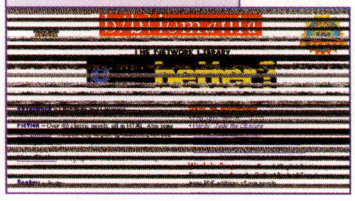
Bibliomania – A love of books pursued to the point of unreason or madness. One Don Vicente, a Spanish scholar, is reputed to have committed murder to obtain a supposedly unique book, *The Dictionary of Phrase and Fable*.

This site is described fully within the definition given above, it's all about the love of books.

Another site which focuses on the possibilities of modern technology with reference to electronic literature, this site includes a search engine and online books.

Major classic works are reproduced here in full, chapter by chapter. That alone makes this site worthwhile. If a new generation of children can be introduced to the classics in a new and interactive way that replaces the, widely considered, boring book, then the Web cannot be discounted as a tool for learning.

If you love of books you should visit here.



Indeed, I actually read a few sections of *Wuthering Heights* while here, something I have never been able to bring myself to do before, even though I love to read.

Also included is a reference site on literature and language, and the original text of the *Kama Sutra*, as translated in 1883 by Sir Richard Burton. This is not the illustrated version so readily available in shady bookshops and from dubious mail-order companies, but the full work on the art of love and relationships.

A brilliant site which is worth a good browse.

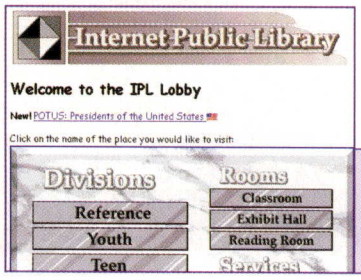
Address: http://www.bibliomania.com/

Rating: £ £ £ £ £

The Internet Public Library

An American resource, this site is mainly education oriented, having teen and youth sections which feature some very nice touches and interactive science projects.

Also available is the MOO, which isn't about Mad Cows, but a Multi-User Object Oriented environment, an interactive system accessible through Telnet by many users at the same time. Moos are based on the MUD, Multi-User Dungeon concept, but include more possibilities for interaction and real time communication learning experiences. This is a good site for both teachers and



An education oriented site, with interactive projects.

students to visit, with opportunities for communication with other education based people. Sometimes a little too Uncle Sam for my liking, but then not all sites can cater for all nationalities and this is the best that the Americans have to offer in this area of resources.

Meant as a complementary service to normal Libraries and as a place where librarians from all over the world can communicate with one another and swap ideas about archiving and all associated areas. It achieves its goal.

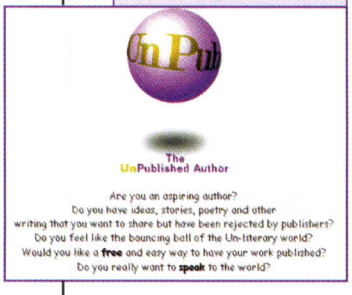
If you're a teacher, student or librarian, this site would definitely be a must, having many areas of interest to offer.

Address: http://ipl.sils.umich.edu/
Rating: £ £ £ £ ◇

The Unpublished Author

Are you a frustrated author? Been rejected by Publishing Houses? Sure you can write a novel? Then this is the site for you.

A new site, popular with wannabe authors.


UnPub
The
UnPublished Author
Are you an aspiring author?
Do you have ideas, stories, poetry and other
writing that you want to share but have been rejected by publishers?
Do you feel like the bouncing ball of the Un-literary world?
Would you like a free and easy way to have your work published?
Do you really want to speak to the world?

A very new addition to the Web, this site is small as yet, but has the potential for almost unlimited growth, provided people continue to have their novels turned down for publication. This site can only grow. To gain a place on this site you merely have to email your rejection forms and unpublished work to the site masters and they will publish the work in full, without revision, something that no one else will ever do for you. At present only the Poetry section of the archive is 'live', but the categories shown for future inclusion represent the full spectrum of literary endeavour.

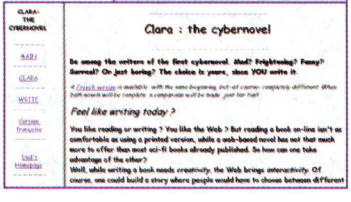
On the poetry section, there was only one poet online so far. The works of Don Halstead are moving tributes to a friend who was dying of AIDS, so having them rejected by a publishing company must have been doubly upsetting.

A site with real potential. Stick it in your bookmarks and watch the works evolve.

Address: http://www.dhalstead.com/unpub/
Rating: £ £ £ ◇ ◇

Clara

Add your thoughts to the Cyber novel



Multi-authoring has already been mentioned in this month's guide, so our last site is one such example of this virtual phenomenon – the Cyber novel.

An interesting story to start with, there are plot convolutions galore as different people add to the story bit by bit. If you fancy a go, I'd advise loading the page, then reading it all offline because some parts take more reading than others.

Well written in parts, and extremely strange in others, this is an example of interactive multi-authoring, which shows how well the theory can be translated into practice, and an editor with overall control of additions, so it maintains the original plot.

Well worth a visit and why not try uploading a plotline while you're there? I didn't, just in case I get accused of plugging my own views and writing too much!

Interactive fun all the way.

Address: www.allaban.frwdud/cn/en/cybnovel.htm
Rating: £ £ £ £ ◇

Authors

The Unofficial William S Burroughs homepage

A comprehensive look at the author of *The Naked Lunch*, this site is well designed, and packed full of information about William Burroughs.

Address: http://www.peg.apc.org/~firehorse/wsb/wsb.html
Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

The unofficial Xanth homepage

Piers Anthony is a favourite author of mine, so I thought I'd visit the homepage of his more prolific works, *The Xanth trilogy* (six times over). Well designed and up-to-date.

Address: http://www.best.com/~wooldri/xanth/
Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Daniel Defoe

This is a single page site with a picture of Daniel, a brief précis of his life and a bibliography. Not wildly exciting, but informative enough to be worth a visit if you liked *Robinson Crusoe*. Simple and elegant.

Address: http://www.li.net/~scharf/defoe.html
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

The Daphne du Maurier Website

This site is a part of Cornish-based promotion, with links to their tourism centre. However it is a well designed memorial to one of the greatest female authors of the twentieth century, and well worth a visit.

Address: http://www.wdi.co.uk/westwind/cornwall/daphne/maurier.html
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

The Stephen King Website

The author of this page apologises for falling behind with the maintenance of the site, which is something I wish more people would do. Having said that, the site is very good, and very informative.

Address: http://wwwcsif.cs.ucdavis.edu/~pace/king.html
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Anne McCaffrey

My favourite author, Anne McCaffrey can be very touchy about people referencing her work. This site is a link page, and a bibliography with links to Anne's latest works. Well laid out and maintained.

Address: http://www.catch22.com/~espana/SFAuthors/SFM/McCaffrey,Anne.html
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

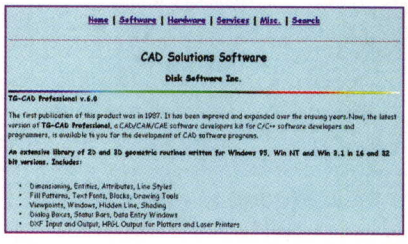
The Darkover site

A French site with English version pages, this Marion Zimmer Bradley homepage focuses on Marion and her most prolific work, The *Darkover* novels. A must for fans.

Address: http://www.ceremade.dauphine.fr/~rossi/darkover/msb.uk.html
Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

This issue we take a closer look at Shareware and Freeware. Don't forget to register your software if you download shareware – it's only fair you know!

PC product information from Source Data


Home | Software | Hardware | Services | Misc. | Search
CAD Solutions Software
Disk Software Inc.
TG-CAD Professional v.6.0
The first publication of this product was in 1987. It has been improved and expanded over the ensuing years. Now, the latest version of TG-CAD Professional, a CAD/CAM/CAE software developers kit for C/C++ software developers and programmers, is available to you for the development of CAD software programs.
An extensive library of 2D and 3D geometric routines written for Windows 95, Win NT and Win 3.1 in 16 and 32 bit versions. Includes:
Dimensioning, Entities, Attributes, Line Styles
Fill Patterns, Text Fonts, Blocks, Drawing Tools
Viewports, Windows, Hidden Line, Shading
Dialog Boxes, Status Bars, Data Entry Windows
DXF Input and Output, HPGL Output for Plotters and Laser Printers

A full list of software and hardware resources found on the Web. Whatever PC-based information you're looking for you will find it here. This site also includes a text based search engine for you to find anything you want.

A comprehensive list of products is always handy to have. If you are unable to source something through your local dealer or a national chain, it's always slightly infuriating, especially when you need a specific item or have a specific problem to solve that no one seems to know about.

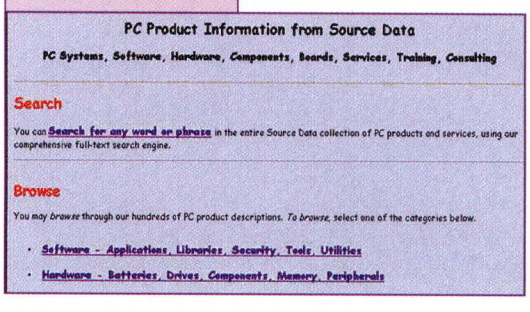
Email contacts are available for all the companies and products here, as well as links to their Web sites (where available), and snail mail addresses and phone numbers. Mostly American based, this doesn't prevent you contacting the companies to see whether they export, or indeed, whether they have UK based outlets.

Informative and easy to use.

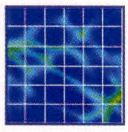
Address: http://sourcedata.com/index.htm

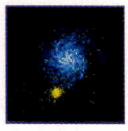
Rating: £ £ £ ◇ ◇

An easy to use site and full of contacts.


PC Product Information from Source Data
PC Systems, Software, Hardware, Components, Boards, Services, Training, Consulting
Search
You can Search for any word or phrase in the entire Source Data collection of PC products and services, using our comprehensive full-text search engine.
Browse
You may browse through our hundreds of PC product descriptions. To browse, select one of the categories below.
Software - Applications, Libraries, Security, Tools, Utilities
Hardware - Batteries, Drives, Components, Memory, Peripherals

G3 Software Archive





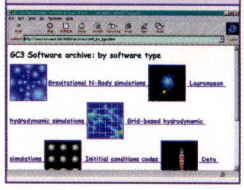
Occasionally when searching the Web for new sites and places of interest you come across a real lemon, and I have included this site as a prime example of the type.

In the event that you were looking for Langragean Hydrodynamic simulation software (something to do with spacial orbits I think) this would still be an ideal place not to look, since the list contains no information whatsoever. I would normally pass this off as being due to the site being relatively new, and this information coming soon, but this does not appear to be the case in this instance since the last revision on this site was in January 1996, which is over 10 months ago.

There seems to be no clear purpose for an archive of this nature, even were it to be complete, since any scientist looking for application software of this kind would surely use the National Geographic lists, or another specialist publication, and wouldn't have the time to waste trawling the Web for information.

Why did they do that? God alone knows.

Avoid this site. A waste of Web space.



Address: http://zeus.ncsa.uiuc.edu:8080/archives/soft_by_type.html

Rating: £ ◇ ◇ ◇ ◇

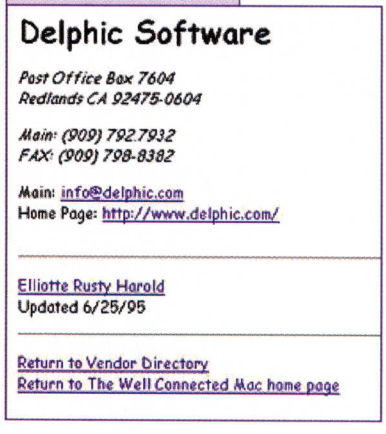
Macintosh Vendor Software

A full, and I do mean full, list of Mac software vendors. A massive amount of information, in list form, with links to data-base address pages, software listings and email and snail mail addresses.

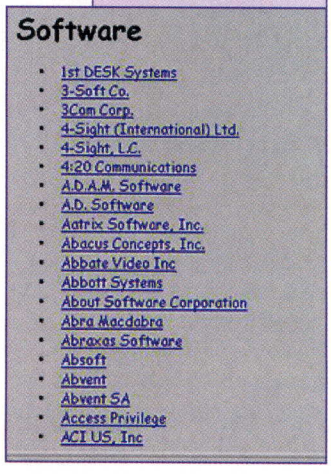
The sheer amount of information available here makes this site a must for all Mac users to bookmark for when they are on the lookout for new software.

With companies like Kitchen Sink Software included, there is no need for me to use any cliches to describe what's on offer. The actual homepage site at http://www.macfaq.com/ describes itself as the ultimate resource online, and I would hesitate to disagree with them, since they do seem to have covered all the angles. Worth bookmarking if you use a Macintosh.

Possibly the ultimate resource site.



The amount on offer makes this a must.



Address: http://www.macfaq.com/vendor/software.html

Rating: £ £ £ £ ◇

Stroud's Consummate Winsock Applications List

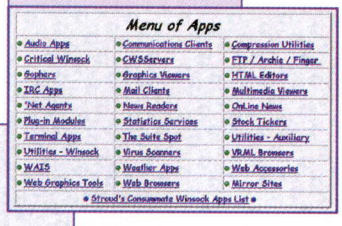
This site is one of my personal favourites; whenever I need any kind of software I always look here first to see if there's something available for me to download.

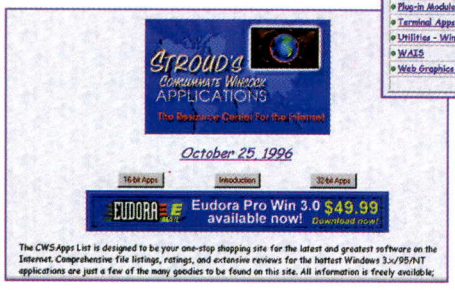
This site contains a huge amount of information and software, both shareware and freeware, which is mostly Web related in one way or another.

Sometimes the site can be slow. This is for obvious reasons as it's very popular and receives a massive amount of hits.

They have sections for 16-bit systems, and for 32-bit systems.

A top port of call for your software needs.




STROUD'S
CONSUMMATE WINSOCK
APPLICATIONS
The Resource Center For the Internet
October 25, 1996
16-bit Apps
Introduction
32-bit Apps
EUDORA
Eudora Pro Win 3.0 $49.99
available now!
Download now!
The CWSApps List is designed to be your one-stop shopping site for the latest and greatest software on the Internet. Comprehensive file listings, ratings, and extensive reviews for the hottest Windows 3.x/95/NT applications are just a few of the many goodies to be found on this site. All information is freely available;

Mail clients, Telnet applications, Gopher and Finger (what is that?) clients.

Again, this site caters to PC based users, and as the name suggests, this means Windows and Windows 95 are featured very heavily. Design-wise this page is magnificent. Java applets guide you through the frame-based pages with consummate ease, and all the listings include file size so that you can approximate your online time and know how huge your phone bill will be!

Address: http://www.cwsapps.com//index.html
Rating: £ £ £ £ £

The Mac software catalogue

A public service run by Nexor, this is a smaller catalogue than the Macintosh Vendor Software site featured earlier, and mirrors an American site at the University of Michigan/ Merit.

Well laid out, but not very informative or full, there is some good stuff here, but unfortunately not much of it. Last updated in March of this year, the site isn't particularly well maintained, but they do actually mention that the site may be out of date, and that some of the links are now out dated.

Having said that, the software available here is good stuff, and several of the text based adventure games I have actually played on my PC. I would particularly recommend the game *Curses* to anyone interested in the genre. (If you get stuck, I might even send you clues if you email TOTAL INTERNET).

Address: http://pubweb.nexor.co.uk/public/mac/archive/welcome.html
Rating: £ £ £ £ ◇

A well organised resource – try out the online games for a treat.

Shareware & Freeware

Hypnovista Shareware

A screen saver and a bizarre Valentines loves me, loves me not type game are on offer here from an American company that makes Screen savers and electronic comics.
Address: http://www.hypno.com/share.html
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

The O/S2 Shareware BBS

In the interests of fairness, I have included this site, since, as I admitted earlier, not everyone uses what might be considered standard software. I can't comment on the accuracy of the information, since I use Windows 95.
Address: http://www.os2bbs.com/docs/msg-area.html
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Carl & Gary's Shareware Archive

A selection of games, utilities and applications brought to you, the public.
Some interesting titles, mostly for Windows-based PC users. Includes quite a large amount of VBasic stuff.
Address: http://www.apexsc.com/vb/share1.html
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Shareware.com

Mac and PC shareware files are available here, as well as other, older systems, and source code programs. Includes a search facility and some nice touches. Regularly updated and well maintained.
Address: http://www.shareware.com/
Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Galax software

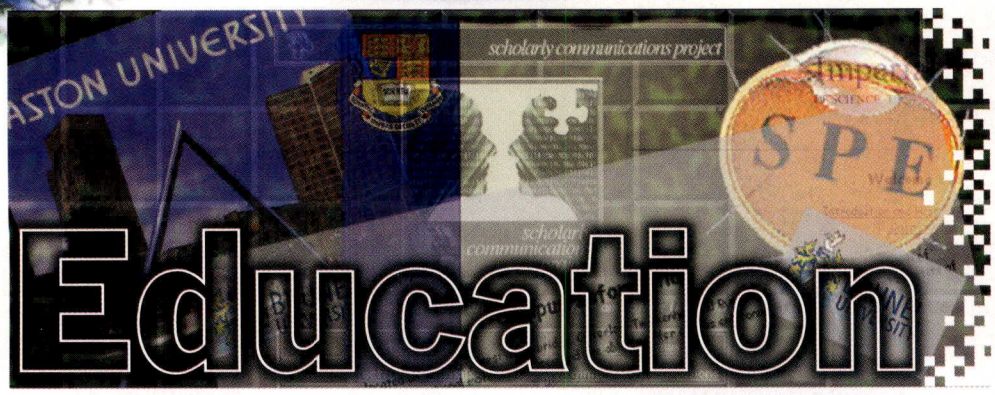
A couple of shareware bits, including a game, and access to a Multi User chat service and game. Well designed frame-based site. Worth a look.
Address: http://tcs.anglianet.co.uk/
Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

The 32-bit Software archive

Another Windows NT/95 area, this site contains many features and files galore.
Includes a news section on the cutting edge of technology. Well up-to-date and very well maintained.
Address: http://www.32bit.com/software/
Rating: ◆◆◆◆◆

Yahoo's List of Shareware sites

Yahoo is always worth a visit for those of you who use non-standard equipment, since they list every area available on the list, including old 8-bit machines and resources.
Address: http://www.yahoo.com/Computers/Software/Shareware/
Rating: ◆◆◆◆◆



With the state of the education system rarely out of the news these days, Gary Joyce decided to investigate the options available on the Web...

Scholarly Communications Project

This site provides electronic access to library services.

A joint project between the University Libraries of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, this started in 1989 with the purpose of providing electronic access to books, information and facilities. Well maintained and revised regularly, this service has proved invaluable in the State of Virginia, with a heavy emphasis on library services.

Most of the file areas are only accessible to subscribers, although not all, since the stated aim of the project is to disseminate information, not to restrict it.

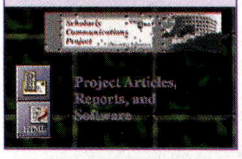
Editors of electronic art and publications, on and off the campus are invited to contribute to the archive of information by the site controllers.

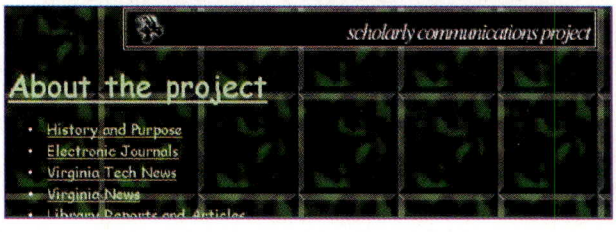
A good idea, that's very well executed here, it's about time that such projects were brought to the forefront in this country. Since the Americans have been doing this sort of site for nearly 10 years now, we have a lot of catching up to do in some areas of electronic data storage.

A well designed site, with plenty of information.

Address:
http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/
Rating: £ £ £ £ ◇

Loads of information is on offer to users.





The Society for Photographic Education

A site located in Dallas, USA, the title is, I assume, what the society is called. There is no information about the society itself at this site, but there are lists of job offers in photography and art.

There are also details of other university arts courses and grants available for students.

Mostly art-based photographic jobs and courses seem to be represented here, rather than the serious journalistic side of the form.

The site is not very informative from where I was, being aimed primarily at people who know what they are looking for, and who the site operators are.

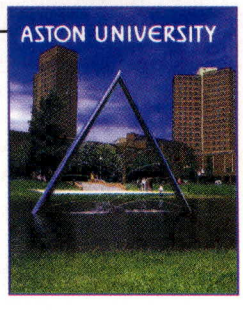
There seems little point in having public access to sites of this nature, that could be run by BBS systems, leaving server space available for sites of more public relevance and interest.

Not much use and certainly not educational in any way.

Address:
http://www.arts.ucsb.edu/SPE/
Rating: £ ◇ ◇ ◇ ◇

Not really very educational.

Aston University



Aston University's site endeared itself to me almost as soon as I arrived. The picture of the lake, obviously a focal point of the campus, is massive and yet it downloaded in no time at all because it's a jpeg. It's a nice picture as well.

The site is easy to navigate and well organised with a professional feel, although several of the internal links failed to work which could be frustrating for visitors. Knowing Aston's reputation in computer science I tried three times to visit the Neural Computing Research Group only to get a 'not found' report – an irony that may appeal to any potential Luddites among you. These problems did not, however, detract from my overall satisfaction with the site and had I been a potential student or looking for a university job, Aston would have figured high on my list.

Address: http://www.aston.ac.uk/home.html
Rating: £ £ £ £ ◇

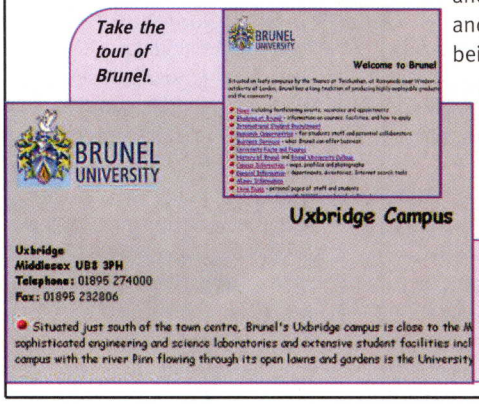
Brunel University

This is the homepage of Brunel University and it seems to be very big. Apart from the usual "this is a wonderful university" stuff there is a whole page devoted to individual students' homepages with links. It should be noted that the University disclaims all responsibility for the material on these pages, so if you go beyond this point you're on your own.

There is an excellent pictorial tour of the four campus venues that make up Brunel and lots of useful information for potential students and business investors alike. A serious criticism, however, is that like too many of these sites the pictures are all gifs and for the most part large. As a consequence they are very slow and, to be frank, if you don't have a fast modem I'd suggest that you disable the graphical element on your browser.

Navigation round this site is by text link and as a result even older browsers should not have any problems, although the individual homepages are not covered by any particular convention and who knows what weird and wonderful plug-ins are being employed there!

Take the tour of Brunel.



Address: http://http2.brunel.ac.uk:8080/

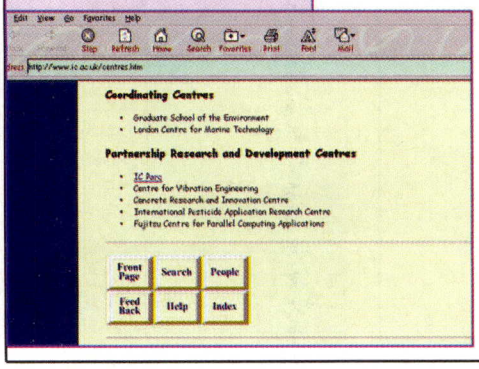
Rating: £ £ £ ◇ ◇

Despite looking good the site is slow to download, so disable graphics if you have a slow modem.

Imperial College, London

Imperial College, London is a name familiar to many as the home of several important mirrors for major software companies. I expected great things on the strength of this and so the front page of their site came as a bit of a let down. It might seem trivial, but on the premise that first impressions last I would have thought that the authors could have paid a bit more attention to layout. The college crest was most impressive but the sudden lurch to the right of the text was quite unsettling. Apart from this quibble the site is attractive and slick, with navigation buttons on all pages. With the right browser you can zip about with no trouble and there is also an excellent help page for Net newbies. Be warned, because Imperial mirror some heavyweight stuff (including Netscape) the site can often be seriously oversubscribed and consequently very slow.

This is a heavily subscribed site and so it's often slow.



Address: http://www.ic.ac.uk/

Rating: £ £ £ ◇ ◇

Modules

Adult Cardiovascular Medicine Modules

An interesting case study on Angina in a 65-year old woman. However, the site doesn't work, since the links on display details cannot be found - the old error 404!

Address: http://www.med.virginia.edu/~rsb2b/teaching/teaching.html

Rating: ◆◇◇◇◇

Sample Teaching Modules

The Huron public education system open access teaching modules. A few interesting topics, including the top menu item, which is a discussion of sexual harassment.

Address: http://www.huroned.edu.on.ca/~tipp/2_teachmod.html

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Stanford University

Medical primary care teaching modules. A fascinating resource on primary healthcare. Everything from Chronic obstructive lung diseases to immunisation of adults.

Address: http://wwwmed.stanford.edu/school/DGIM/Teaching/Modules-index.html

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

The Mentor Project

The name Mentor stands for Multimedia Educational Technology for Operational Research. I'm sure it's useful for someone, but I was baffled.

Address: http://www.strath.ac.uk/Departments/MgtSci/mentor.html

Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

SCORPIO teaching modules

The Web is filling up with acronyms nowadays, but I couldn't find out what SCORPIO stood for. Yet another medical resource site, with some outdated links.

Address: http://uniserve.edu.au/caut/NTW1994/adaptationSCORPIO.html

Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

UW Radiology Teaching File

Some quite detailed anatomy modules at this site – not for the squeamish. There are colour photographs from operations and dissections are included.

Address: http://www.rad.washington.edu/AnatomyModuleList.html

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Using the Web

An excellent resource - If you're trying to set up a teaching site of any kind, this is an ideal place to start. Plenty of ideas on offer.

Address: http://dylee.keel.econ.ship.edu/WWWPresentation/96Bloom/tsld011.htm

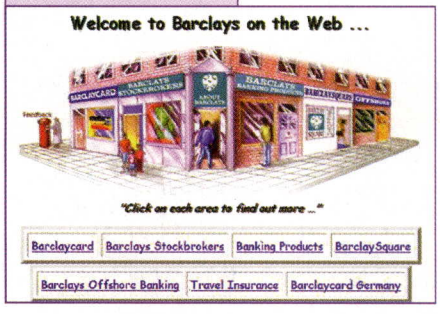
Rating: ◆◆◆◆◆

Juggling your finances isn't always easy, but could the Web ease the fiscal pain? We asked Gary Joyce to try and balance the books...

Grading finance sites is a little more difficult than other types of resources, but I have applied the following criteria: Design, ease of use, product availability and ease of communication with the service provider. Additional points will be raised where they appear.

Barclays Bank plc

The best of a high class bunch. Great quality of service.



Need to get a credit card? Find out more at this site.

Barclays are the second largest high street bank in Britain, and happen to be the bank that yours truly trusts with his monthly salary.

The Web site is beautifully designed and quite stunningly executed. None of the links are dud, and all the navigation tools work as they should.

I don't normally allow the use of superlatives within a miles radius, but the Barclay Square service is quite unique on the Web, offering a service not normally found online outside of Compuserve or AOL forums. Online shopping in complete security is what's on offer and don't doubt for a minute that this is exactly what's delivered.

Also of interest, although not strictly linked to the current site, is that next spring Barclays and Microsoft will be joining forces in an unprecedented manner to bring online banking into a front end client, Microsoft Money. What effect this will have on the British banking scene has yet to be confirmed, but the ensuing fight for online customers should be interesting to watch.

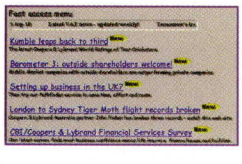
This site is superb (and no, I'm not trying to curry favour with my Bank Manager), there is even a shockwave version of the Offshore banking section. Wow!

Address: http://www.barclays.co.uk/

Rating: £ £ £ £ £

Coopers & Lybrand

Well worth a visit for all money matters. An excellent site.


Kumble leaps back to thing
Barometer 3: outside shareholders welcome!
Setting up business in the UK?
London to Sydney Tiger Moth flight records broken
CBI/Coopers & Lybrand Financial Services Survey

One of the leading accountancy practices in the UK, Coopers and Lybrand have a very high reputation for quality service and that reputation is borne out by their Web site.

It has already been voted into the top percentage of sites by other independent reviewers and I can see why.

There is a vast array of information on offer here, on all matters financial. There is also a search engine for those of you who prefer to snap straight to the information you are looking for.

This is an Excite! type search engine and the result of my search on the keyword 'pep' gained me nine returns, all with over 94% relevance when grouped by degree of relevance.

The financial aspects of this site are huge, and would take far longer than the space available here to list. Out of all this month's financial sites this comes a very close second to the Barclays effort.

An excellent site, packed with loads of valuable information. Anyone with any financial enquiry would be advised to come here.

Address: http://www.coopers.co.uk/

Rating: £ £ £ £ £

Allied Irish Banks plc

This is the site of the biggest bank in the Republic of Ireland and therefore an important one for their business markets.

The standard legal disclaimer on this page reminds you that since the site is in Ireland, the laws of the Republic of Ireland apply to all content and its use.

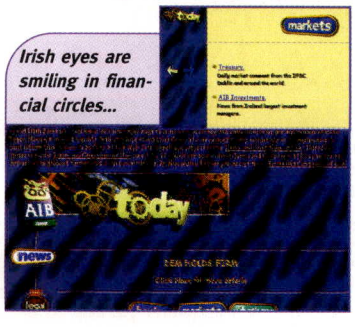
At the moment the Irish economy is going through a period of high, sustainable growth and it is widely predicted that it will soon begin to outstrip the British economy in terms of growth and investment.

The site is well laid out, with graphical and text links for older browsers. The standard used is Netscape 2.0 or above. The five basic areas of interest are the Markets, Business and Personal banking, What's new, and the wider view. Business contains a free demo of the Banks' client software, treasury reports, corporate finance and service locations (branch locations).

The left hand navigation bar is very unfriendly, and I couldn't quite work out how to use this, but that aside this is a very clearly laid out site, with a great deal of useful financial information.

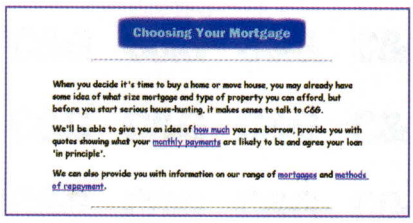
Address: http://www.aib.ie/aib/

Rating: £ £ £ ◇ ◇



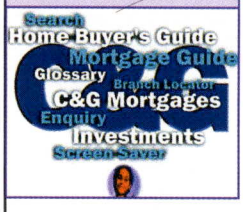
Irish eyes are smiling in financial circles...

Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society


Choosing Your Mortgage
When you decide it's time to buy a home or move house, you may already have some idea of what size mortgage and type of property you can afford, but before you start serious house-hunting, it makes sense to talk to C&G.
We'll be able to give you an idea of how much you can borrow, provide you with quotes showing what your monthly payments are likely to be and agree your loan 'in principle'.
We can also provide you with information on our range of mortgages and methods of repayment.

"We're run to make you richer" states the blurb, a naff catchphrase if ever there was one. A branch locator, plus loans and mortgage details is about all this site runs to, which was disappointing after the first few sites I had visited, all of which were better designed and conceptualised. In all fairness, perhaps I had been spoiled by my first few visits, and this site is simple, but well designed none the less, the presentation being just as professional as many other sites on the Web. The links are all clear, but I was sad to see that all contact information was either phone or snail based, with no electronic communication offered. The mortgage information given is extremely good, well written and mainly jargon-free, giving a good financial guide to both interest repayments, and to mortgage types; from repayment to endowment policy.

A simple site, but well designed nonetheless.



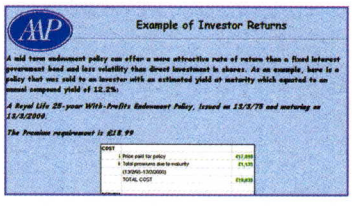
A building society based mortgage system has always been a little more friendly than a bank based one, and Cheltenham & Gloucester certainly have a full range of services on offer.

A simple site, but well designed nonetheless.

Address: http://www.cheltglos.co.uk/

Rating: £ £ £ ◇ ◇

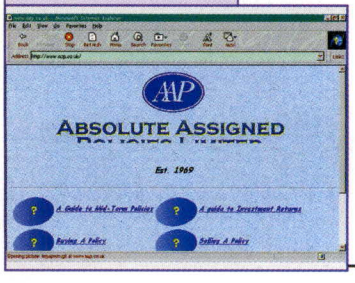
Absolute Assigned Policies Ltd



Possibly the slowest loading site I have ever come across, unless I had been doing this review I would not have even bothered continuing at all. The front end pictures took over 10 minutes to load, and this was not just a one-off, since I had previously tried to enter the site without any success whatsoever, the graphics simply failing to arrive at all. As you can see from the homepage capture, the title graphic never arrived in full.

To be honest the investment policy market is not one I have ever been particularly interested in and I'm afraid that a site of the poor quality offered by this company is not going to make me any more wildly enthusiastic about the whole thing.

A badly designed and slow loading site.



Drab presentation abounds, and I was forced to wonder how the site took so long to load, since none of the graphics are large or impressive enough to take any bandwidth *per se.*

Boring, badly presented, badly designed and not very informative.

A lemon, I'm afraid.

Address: http://www.aap.co.uk/

Rating: ◇ ◇ ◇ ◇ ◇

Stocks and Shares...

Chase de Vere Investments

The Interactive Investor. Well maintained. Good design. Accurate and informative, with good information.

Address: http://www.iii.co.uk/cdv/

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Flemings fund managers Luxembourg

A Luxembourg company with investments and interests in countries worldwide. With an investment fund totalling some $(us)75 billion, this is a large company. A good site, which also contains job opportunities for graduates with language skills.

Address: http://www.flemings.lu/

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Gartmore fund managers

Being a site purely for UK investment, the legal disclaimers warn against foreign investors using this site. Unit trust information which is bang up-to-date, and very well explained.

Address: http://www.iii.co.uk/gartmore/

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Guernsey Financial services

Welcome to the world of off-shore banking, where fortunes can be made or lost. An introduction to the world of off-shore finance, and a guide to investments and money management.

Address: http://www.itl.net/business/ofw/Guernsey/states/index.html

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

The Jersey International Offshore Financial Review

The largest of the channel islands, and the place where the majority of off-shore investment is handled. Includes links to flight and tourist sites, as well as detailed financial information.

Address: http://www.offshore-finance.com

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Killik & Co Stockbrokers

Stockbrokers of the year, Killik & Co are very well respected throughout the financial markets as astute investors. Investment with advice is their watchword and their Web site is as astute and calculated as their investment choices.

Address: http://www.killik.co.uk/

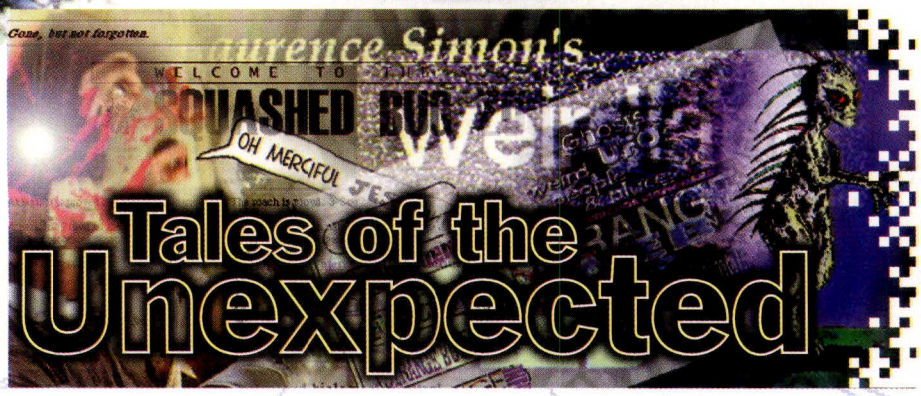
Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Lorne House Trust Web site

Another off-shore trust company, this time based on the other side of the country; the Isle of Man. A medium sized investment house, with large scale ideals and research facilities.

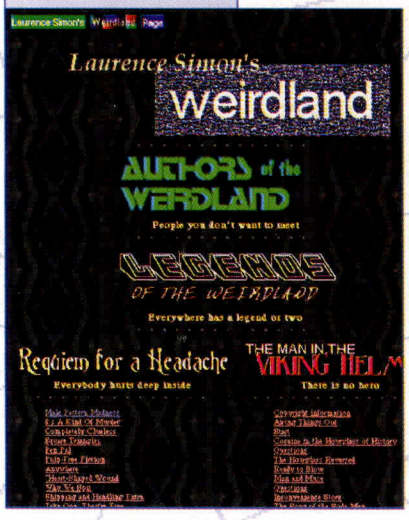
Address: http://www.lorne-house.com/

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇



Topics that are slightly twisted and weird have always attracted millions to the Net. Simon Lovell beams himself up in search of the strange and unexplained...

Unusual information is in abundance once you enter Weirdland.


Laurence Simon's Weirdland Page
Laurence Simon's
weirdland
AUTHORS of the WEIRDLAND
People you don't want to meet
LEGENDS OF THE WEIRDLAND
Everywhere has a legend or two
Requiem for a Headache
Everybody hurts deep inside
THE MAN IN THE VIKING HELM
There is no hero

No matter where you care to search over the Web you will always come over something that will shock, surprise or simply put you out of your stride. Type in something simple like "clothing" to unveil the same madness as typing something stupid like "crazy rubber chickens". That's why the Web is so great. Unless you're typing in an address directly, it's all so unpredictable but most of all it's great fun. Of course, once you've utilised this guide to the full, don't be afraid to go out there to try some searching for yourself, but for the time being the next 12 pages should keep your modem happy with a selection of paranormal, weird and myth & legend sites.

"You'll be needing a heart resuscitator before the night is out"

Site of the month had to go to the completely bizarre *Strange Magazine* (see box-out on the right). It's ideal for everyone interested in any of the topics covered here as it covers most of them in a single site. Fantastic.

Are they sane?

The Internet just proves the fact that there are people in this world who are mildly out of their minds and who can blame them? If there's a chance to express your personality then what better way to do it than via the Web? Enter *Weirdland* and you'll soon figure out what I'm going on about, **http://www.phoenix.net/~lsimon/writing/default.html.** It comprises of a collection of rather bizarre stories ported over from a newsgroup called *talk.bizarre*. They differ in size considerably and if you've already got the chuckles then I can assure you that you'll be needing a heart resuscitator before the night is out.

Much of the weird side of the Internet comes when people decide to use others as a focus point. The *Exploding Heads* page (yes you read it right) is a fine example and is really quite hilarious, **http://www.king.net/gilmore/head/.** Five celebrities have been selected; Boris Yeltsin, Bob Dole, Tom Hanks, Rush Limbaugh and Bill Gates (sorry PC fanatics) to have their heads removed virtually. As you click on a series of edited (although you're not meant to think that) photos, it gets nearer and nearer to the climax when... boom – off come their heads!

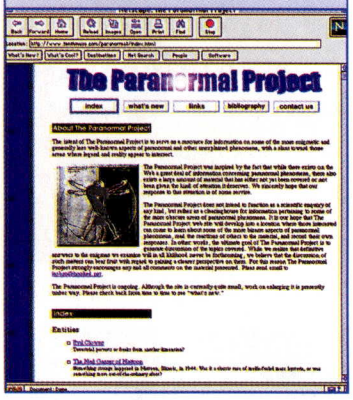
This is of course of the more joking nature, whereas at **http://www.mancow.com/freakshow.html**, you'll be invited to view images of classic, gross and truly bizarre freaks. This may be a shock to some, so don't go there if you think you'll be offended by it. Some of the material is rather traumatic.

Is it Out There?

Even before programmes such as the *X-Files*, **(http://www.thex-files.com/)**, delved deep into our TV schedules, there were incredible amounts of paranormal sites to been found on the Web. Now, such fictional entertainment seems to have triggered off budding Mulders and Scullys everywhere and there are literally thousands of these sites to be investigated. Apart from several that did catch my eye in the guide (starting on page 72), *The Paranormal Project*,

If famous people's heads exploding gets you going, try out the Exploding Heads page!

The rise in interest in the paranormal has taken the Web by storm, producing sites like this.

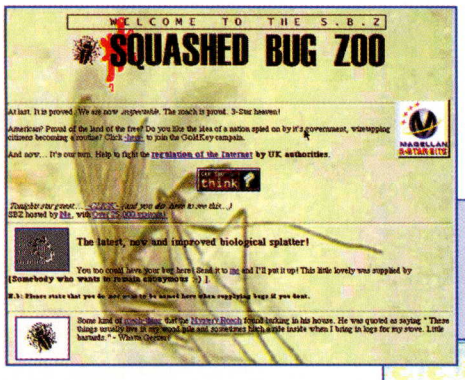


http://www.tenthmuse.com/paranormal/index.html, was rather slick and interesting site that's mainly for those who are more interested in reading text than looking at photos of UFOs and so called alien beings. Whereas a lot of sites concentrate on well known subjects such as the infamous Roswell incident the project looks at subjects either not covered at all or in any real depth. One was about evil freak clowns from another dimension!

I saw it... honest

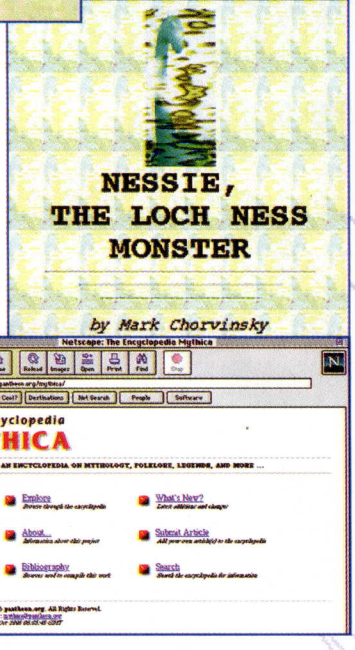
It's not just all aliens and UFOs though, for the nostalgic amongst you from page 76 onwards you'll be able to learn about several sites that cover some of the many myths and legends in the air. From Robin Hood to Bigfoot – they're all here? If the Loch Ness Monster takes your fancy simply visit **http://www.cais.net/strangemag/nessie.home.html** however. These pages not only cover the famous kilt wearing Nessie, but also a variety of other creatures who are said to be roaming other lakes, not just in Scotland but also as far away as Canada.

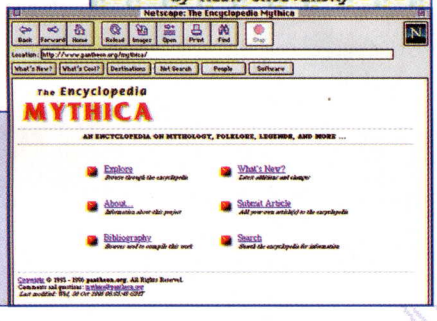
General myths and legends can be found by going to an online encyclopedia called *Mythica*, **http://www.pantheon.org/mythica/**. It's a fantastic resource that allows you to either wander round yourself or search for a topic you're interested in. It covers international mythologies, Greek heroic legends, folklore and quite a bit more.



(Left) This is a truly weird site, showing off squashed bugs. Someone find the author a straitjacket as quickly as possible!

Have you ever stepped on a bug? If so I bet you don't do what the author of this page has done and shown off many images of dead bugs in a virtual zoo located at **http://squashed.roach.org/zoo.html**. He's even included a new small vertebrate section. Fear not insect and animal lovers, I'm sure that Ace Ventura Pet Detective will be on the case sooner or later!





Information about virtually every myth and legend you can think of can be found at the Encyclopedia Mythica – another of those handy listings sites that make life so much easier.

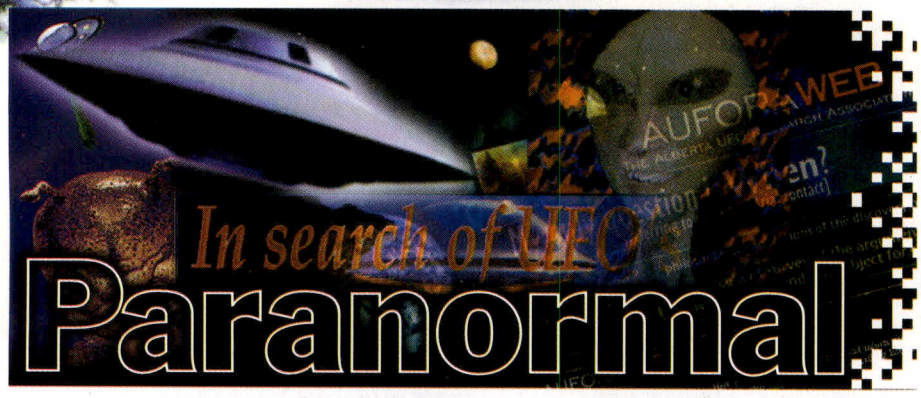
SITE OF THE MONTH

Strange Magazine

http://www.strangemag.com/

A superb online magazine, designed for users fascinated by unusual phenomena.

There's a good chance that you've come to these pages of the magazine because you're interested in the topics covered; Paranormal, Myths & Legends or Weird. Whereas most of the sites covered look at individual topics, be it vampires or aliens, *Strange Magazine* takes a close look into everything out of the ordinary. Your first reaction to the site will (as with every home page) be directed toward the look. As with quite a few online magazine, *Strange* is blessed with top of the range design quality. Once you've decided what link to use, from a selection including News, Departments, Features, Strange Bookshop or Strange Magazine info, there is a massive variety of data on hot topics ranging from Goatsuckers to UFO sightings. Most pages include images, making the text all the more attractive to sit and read through. However, if you still own a 14.4 modem you might like to make use of text only links on most pages of the site. Many features offered in the online version of *Strange Magazine* can't be found in the twice-yearly publication, but if you're desperate to get hold of a copy then ordering information is also here. It's hardly unusual (no matter how bizarre the site is) that this site has picked up several online awards.

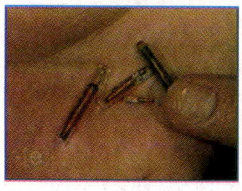


It's a funny old world, especially when it comes to paranormal activity on the Web. What's everyone getting excited about? Read on to discover the strange truth...

Minnesota MUFON UFO Page

Linked to a UFO organisation in the USA

WELCOME TO THE MINNESOTA MUFON UFO WEB PAGE
MN
MUFON
UFO Reports (Last Update= 10/23/96)
Abduction Reports (Last Update= 5/27/96)
Cattle Mutilation Reports (Last Update= 5/20/96)
Crop Circle Reports (Last Update= 10/15/96)

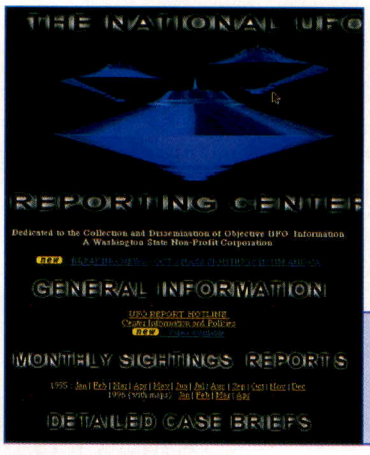


Abduction, UFO, Cattle Mutilation and Crop Circle reports – that's what the Minnesota UFO Page has been looking at most. The site is an addition to a group that holds regular meetings in the States and their online offering aims to promote what issues arise in their meetings. Incorporating rather pathetic (the kids will love them) animated GIFs, the site offers a huge variety of data concerning paranormal activity. Many text files are on offer, but the size of them differs, some can be a couple of paragraphs long, where others take up pages and pages. What there is a real lack of here is photos, making all the pages on the slightly dull side. The overall look of the site is bleak, but that doesn't make it a bad Web site. Indeed, the presentation needs to be tarted up, and it might be an idea to change the background colour. However, at the end of the day it's easy to locate what you've gone there for and, once you do come over it, there's enough to feed any paranormal monster.

Address: http://www.wavefront.com/~jhenry/

Rating:

National UFO Reporting Center

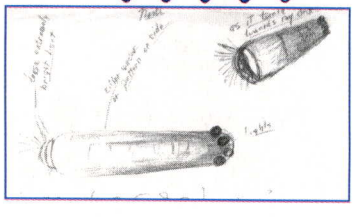

THE NATIONAL UFO
REPORTING CENTER
Dedicated to the Collection and Dissemination of Objective UFO Information
A Washington State Non-Profit Corporation
GENERAL INFORMATION
MONTHLY SIGHTINGS REPORTS
DETAILED CASE BRIEFS

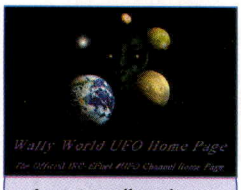
An American site for people who want to report their UFO sightings for publication.

The first thing that'll hit you upon visiting this site will be the slick presentation. And surprising as it may be, it's still fairly quick to load. Apart from the usual sighting reports (also nicely presented), The National UFO Reporting Center also features detailed case briefs. One of the most interesting was a transcript of a radio conversation between ground staff and two aircraft pilots in New York who thought they might have spotted a UFO. Most of the items are fairly recent, the oldest dating back to just 1994. The very newest events and news are put in a prominent place at the top of the page and anything with images is indicated with a small * logo, although don't go to this site solely with the intention of grabbing some pictures, as there are hardly any. When there is one, it's only to accompany a news item. A gallery might have been nice. A special page has also been put up for anyone who has had a recent sighting and want to report it. A serious, well put together page.

Address: http://www.nwlink.com/~ufocntr/

Rating:





An outstanding site for UFO fanatics everywhere.

Wally World UFO Home Page

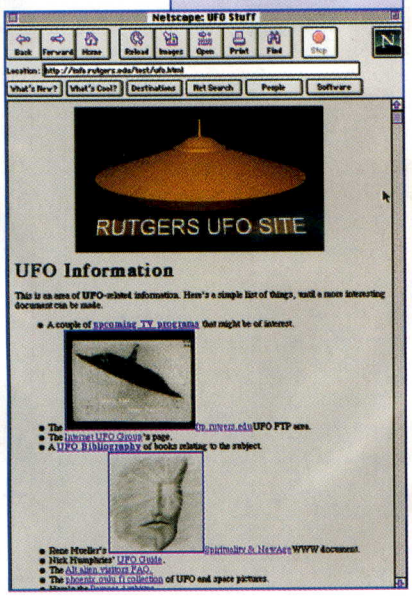
At first glance I was under the impression that this was a links page. However I was very much mistaken and in fact 80 per cent has been created by the author. Everything from drawings of aliens to photos, autopsy reports, Roswell information, crop circles and more can be found here at Wally's home. It's a shame that the sub pages go down hill and they don't have the same feel as the first one which is dark and has that paranormal atmosphere to it. Luckily, this is overcome by the vast content which any UFO or alien fan will surely appreciate. There's even a Wally World FTP site which contains quite a few files, including txt and zip for downloading. Wally has also listed a selection of his best non-related alien sites for those of you who want to take a break from the debates, controversy and speculation. Very good... for a wally.

Address: http://www.nol.net/%7Ewguimb/

Rating:

Rutgers UFO Site

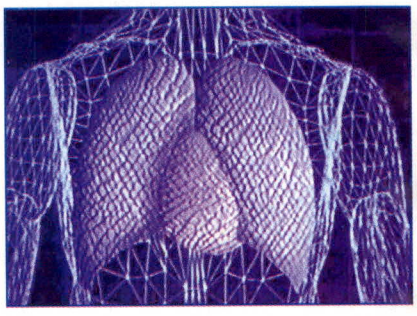
A site that needs to be updated.



Before you enter this page, I should let you know that it hasn't been updated in some time. I found this out by going to the forthcoming TV programmes section, which (unluckily for the author) had March 1996 as the latest date. Due to the lack of text, the most useful part of the site had to be the picture gallery, which has a nice collection of images (FTP style). They're from all over the world and differ in quality and size. If you'd like to read more then one of the pages lists quite a few UFO related books, with information on the author and, in some cases, ISDN numbers. Half a dozen gopher sites have also been listed. It has to be said that you can't get much duller than this site (check out the logo), however, it does possess some use if you want a couple of links and quite a few photos. The most awkward part of it is that the author has decided to mix his pages up with links to completely different sites. Ahh!

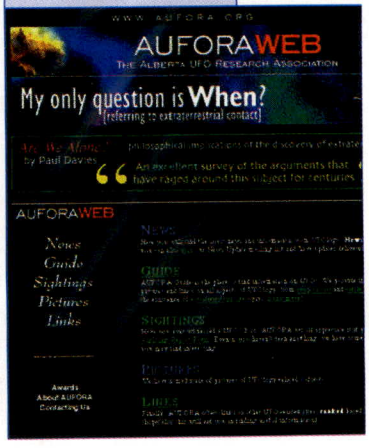
Address: http://info.rutgers.edu/test/ufo.html
Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

AUFORA



Aliens would love AUFORA. Why? Because it's a great looking, interesting and most of all, up to date paranormal Web site! Not only will you find the best collection of alien, UFO and crop circle images here, but it has got a great news section which includes the latest updates. If you wish, you can simply enter your name at the top of the screen to be added to a mailing list. Enter the Sightings section and you'll be invited to email your story. The only thing that I picked out that wasn't competing with the standard of the rest of the site was the links, which were pretty lame to say the very least. If it's competition they're worried about – well that's just plain stupid. Users with slower modems may find loading the pages, especially the framed ones quite slow, but once everything is on screen you certainly won't be disappointed. A brilliant resource.

This is a brilliant UFO resource indeed.



Address: http://www.aufora.org/
Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Cream of the Crop

Crop Circles

A single page with a nice collection of circles from the UK and a description of each. Although the page will be expanding soon to cover areas all over the world. Attractive little page.

Address: http://www.iaw.on.ca/~satconn/crop.htm
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Crop Circles in Central NY

Just two pages are here, both concerning crop circles located at Oneida County, New York. Shame about the grey pages but plenty of text and a couple of images.

Address: http://altair.syr.edu:2024/SETI/ALIENS/crops1.html
Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

UFO British Crop Circles

Crop circle pages come a lot better than this. After the first couple of pages the appearance goes down hill and images take ages to load. Very dull and confusing.

Address: http://www.netg8.demon.co.uk/
Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

Crop Circles (2)

A very well presented and big page that uses frames. Plenty of pictures and text, quite fast to load and very simple to navigate around. Could you ask for more?

Address: http://mmm.simplenet.com/frames/crop_circles/cropcircles.html
Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Crop Circle Connector

Before you even try loading up this site, be warned, it takes ages to load up! Once you have spent at least five minutes loading the pages, there is quite a bit here, personally though, I wouldn't bother.

Address: http://www.hub.co.uk/intercafe/cropcircle/connector.html
Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

Strange Phenomena: Crop Circles

Here you will find a nice collection of crop circle images. Simply click on the thumbnail to access a bigger picture. Dull presentation – but hey, you can't have it all.

Address: http://atlsci.com/~gbowman/circles.html
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

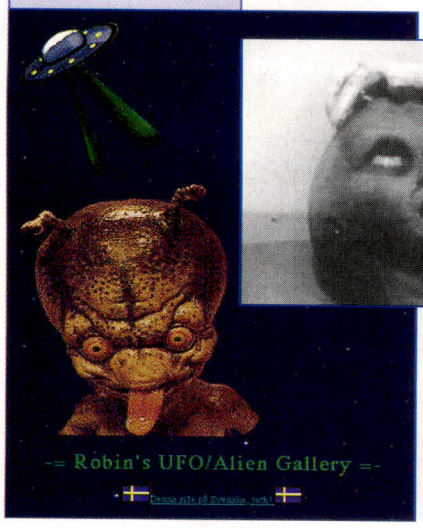
Crop Circles Sacred Symbols Company

Frames alert! Quite good design work, but as far as the content goes - well an alien species would be ashamed.

Address: http://www.atomdog.com/cropcircles/
Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

Robin's UFO/Alien Gallery

Contains images from the dodgy Roswell autopsy footage.



It's not going to pick up any prizes for quality design, but Robin should give himself a pat on the back for the work that has gone into the content. It can't compete with something like AUFORA but once you've checked out the lengthy FAQs, other texts and picture collections, I'm sure you'll agree that quite a bit of work has gone into this UFO and alien site, especially as it's obvious that Robin doesn't have the resources to produce the stunning logos that are often a necessity on commercial or bigger sites. Much of the content is geared towards the Roswell Incident, which for some may indicate that the page is not keeping up with the pace of paranormal issues. Yes, I'd agree, some of the information that's provided here is slightly out of date. Still there's plenty of it and instead of scouting around lots of sites to pick up snippets of information, you should find quite a bit of what you're searching for right here. Well worth a long visit.

Address: http://home1.swipnet.se/~w-12947/Aliens.html

Rating:

In Search of UFO's and Other Phenomena

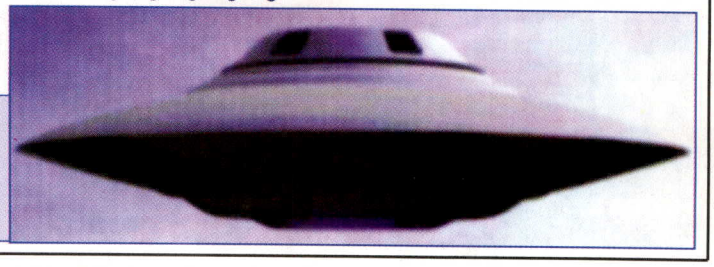
This is one of the many photos on offer.

Interested in an alleged sighting? Check it out here

If you've got a browser that is capable of handling frames and also have a fairly bearable connection (preferably a 28.8 modem or higher) then you might just fall in love with this absolutely massive paranormal Web site. It would be impossible for me to list all of the areas within the site, but here's just a few that are available: Area 51, Sightings, UFO Books, Arts Parts, History, Mutilations, Conclusions, Research, Statistics, Live Postings and Questions. If that's not enough to keep you quiet for a while then another 34 are at your disposal. A frame below each of the 45 sections describes what is on offer within that section, which is very useful. The pages aren't that well designed at all (bright blue never goes down well) but there is bucket loads to read and that's what really matters. This site is bigger than... something that's very big indeed!

Address: http://mmm.simplenet.com/index.html

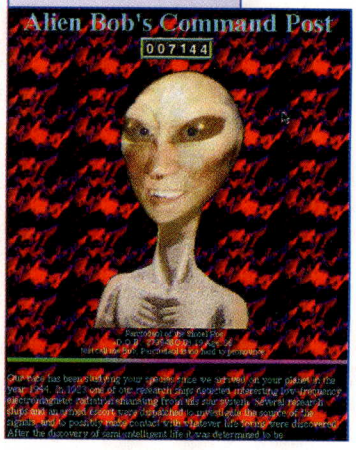
Rating:



This ship, called the Sports model, is the craft which Bob Lazar allegedly de-engineered while working at Area 51.

Alien Bob's Command Post

Bob claims to be an alien studying the human race.

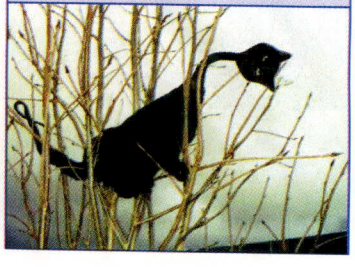


Bob is a wacky World Wide Web wally. According to the site, his race has been studying us since he arrived on Earth in 1944. Forget the vomit inducing background and enjoy the links, shooting you off (via UFO) to various outposts, including information on his clan (Sinoel Roc), how hillbillies captured their craft and how the INS investigated Alien Bob. It even informs readers on the type of craft the clan use, as well as their energy source. Yes, most of this site is extremely strange and, as you've probably gathered by the screen shots, it also includes quite a few weird pictures. Beware though, enter the black hole to the side of the links and you'll be taken to a far away land. Well, if you enjoy Christian societies then you'll thank Bob for the great link! Very strange but fun all the same, especially if you're religious.

Address: http://www.pnn.com/~boba/alien1.htm

Rating:

Meet Alien Bob's pet pussy. This is normal on his world!



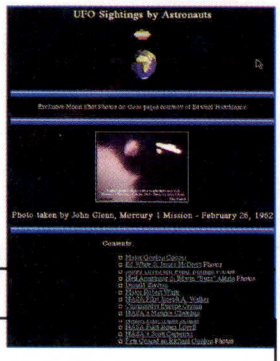
UFO Sightings by Astronauts

This single page introduces astronauts who claim to have seen UFOs while on their space missions. A link guide at the top of the screen will help you to access reports on astronauts such as Neil Armstrong, Major Robert White and James Lovell. There are articles, complete with assisting images, and the size of the pictures and text varies depending on the amount of information available to the author. The site also claims to have exclusive pictures, some of which were Moon shots from Edward Hutchinson, but no doubt thousands of other sites would have stolen them by now. Within the text you'll come across transcripts and many quotes. This is a very interesting and original page that will obviously attract many UFO freaks. Just one more point for slower users – the site does also include a couple of animated GIFs, which your modem will struggle to download quickly.

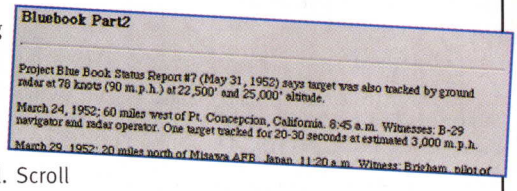
Gemini 7 space flight - Photo by Frank Borman
Two balls of light similar to those witnessed by Neil Armstrong & Buzz Aldrin
SkyWatch
ufoball.jpg

A catalogue of sightings by astronauts.

Address: http://linex3.linex.com/ufo/astroufo.html
Ratings: ◆◆◆◇◇

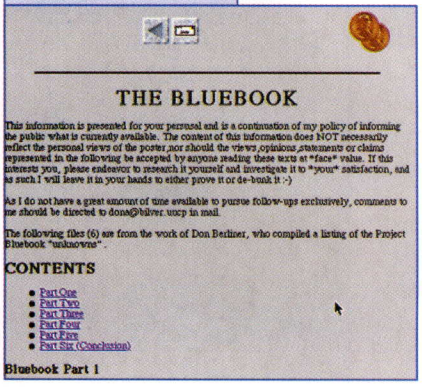


The Bluebook


Bluebook Part2
Project Blue Book Status Report #7 (May 31, 1952) says target was also tracked by ground radar at 78 knots (90 m.p.h.) at 22,500' and 25,000' altitude.
March 24, 1952; 60 miles west of Pt. Concepcion, California. 8:45 a.m. Witnesses: B-29 navigator and radar operator. One target tracked for 20-30 seconds at estimated 3,000 m.p.h.
March 29, 1952; 20 miles north of Misawa AFB, Japan. 11:20 a.m. Witness: Brigham, pilot of

Do you like reading loads and loads of text on a very dull background? If the answer is yes then *The Bluebook* is ideal. Scroll down for hours and hours and you still won't come across any images whatsoever. Yeah, slightly on the boring, sad, lame, dense, dull and tedious side I know, but you can't complain that there's nothing to read can you? In simple terms it's "The unexplained UFO reports from the files of the U.S. Air Force's Project Blue Book UFO investigations." It also includes almost day to day accounts of sightings from July 3rd 1947 to January 17th 1969. Not bad eh? If you want to know the exact details of the document then scrolling from top to bottom took three minutes and 53 seconds. Whereas the word count for this review is roughly 175 words, *The Bluebooks* hits the bell with 25,408 words. Someone's fingers are worn down to the bone! Just don't ask me how many letters that is! It has to be said that you won't be bored by it, in fact once you start to read it, it's quite hard to stop.

Ideal UFO reading material.


THE BLUEBOOK
This information is presented for your personal and is a continuation of my policy of informing the public what is currently available. The content of this information does NOT necessarily reflect the personal views of the poster, nor should the views, opinions, statements or claims represented in the following be accepted by anyone reading these texts at "face" value. If this interests you, please endeavor to research it yourself and investigate it to "your" satisfaction, and as such I will leave it in your hands to either prove it or de-bunk it :-)
As I do not have a great amount of time available to pursue follow-ups exclusively, comments to me should be directed to dons@bilver.uucp in mail.
The following files (6) are from the work of Don Berliner, who compiled a listing of the Project Bluebook "unknowns".
CONTENTS
Part One
Part Two
Part Three
Part Four
Part Five
Part Six (Conclusion)
Bluebook Part 1

Address: http://www.ee.fit.edu/users/lpinto/bluebook.htm
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Paranormal Movies

ID4

The Official site from the blockbuster film *Independence Day*. Quite confusing to get around initially. Very image heavy but you won't be disappointed.
Address: http://www.id4.com/
Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Aliens: The Web Site

The series of *Alien* films have all been smash hits. This page is very good and includes automatically loading sound files. Slow users should beware, the site may bite!
Address: http://www.vis-con.com/aliens/index.html
Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Zep and TardFinger StarWars Page

It's sad to say that there has been a massive reduction in the amount of *Star Wars* pages. This is one of few that are left. Quite good if you're into collecting cards. It also offers a good selection of links (if you can find any that work).
Address:
http://www.cc.utah.edu/~tjp5154/starwars/
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

The Predator Fan Page

Schwarzenegger fans should look out for this pretty good personal effort that includes quite a few sound files (WAV) and pictures. Well worth a bash.
Address:
http://www.1stud.ii.uib.no/~s744/pred.html
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Flight of the Navigator Stills

A selection of stills from the popular 1986 Disney film *Flight of the Navigator*. If you're prepared to wait for them to load then the quality isn't bad.
Address:
http://kpt1.tricon.net/Personal/dave/nav.html
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

The Man Who Fell To Earth

I'm sorry but this page is poop-a-scoop material. It's dull, there are about 10 lines of information and just one image which has been taken from a Japanese movie poster. Trash it.
Address: http://www.kiwi-us.com/~watabe/man.html
Rating: ◆◇◇◇◇

Phenomenon

Fans of John Travolta should watch out for this great page for his latest film. It includes downloadable video and makes great use of your browser's plug-ins (if you have any).
Address: http://www.bvi.co.uk/phenomenon/
Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Whether it's the Loch Ness Monster or Vampires, there's always something on the Web to intrigue us. Simon Lovell takes a daring step down the path of the unknown...

YaBoo!

A parody of the Yahoo search engine.

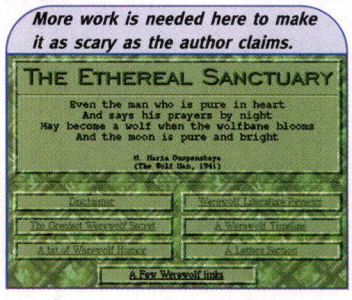
As you have probably figured out by now, by either the name of the site or the screen shot, Yaboo is a rip off of the ever popular Internet directory Yahoo located at **http://www.yahoo.com**. Instead of taking the idea of Yahoo and making Yaboo a complete waste of time, it is actually very good. The main page looks exactly like its idol and offers over 2000 links to scary sites many of which are related to this guide. The change only comes when you click on a first page link. You are then taken to another page, which simply lists sites. It's just a shame that there is no explanation of what's actually there. One mildly irritating aspect was the fact that a search option at the top of the main screen (just like Yahoo) was totally useless! Still, this is a very good link site that will no doubt provide hours of fun... especially for those who like to be scared.

Address: http://www.cascade.net/yaboo.html

Rating:

The Ethereal Sanctuary

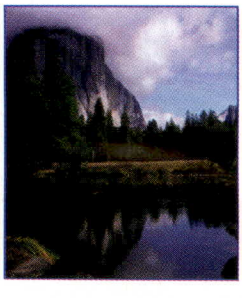
More work is needed here to make it as scary as the author claims.


THE ETHEREAL SANCTUARY
Even the man who is pure in heart
And says his prayers by night
May become a wolf when the wolfbane blooms
And the moon is pure and bright
H. Maria Duppenshare
(The Wold Ub, 1941)
Disclaimer
Werewolf Timeline
The Greatest Werewolf Secret
A Matter of Timeline
A Set of Werewolf Homes
A Letters Section
A Few Werewolf links

There are a mixed bag of views about the legend of the Werewolf and in a disclaimer from the author, he advises anybody who may be disturbed by the themes and issues brought up in the text here to leave the site. However, don't worry, you certainly won't find any harrowing images here, as the site is text based. I got annoyed by quite a few dead links (there's no indication that the site is new and under construction), but don't fear, there are some sections that poses some use to those of you caring to use the URL. These include A Werewolf Timeline, The Greatest Werewolf Secret and Werewolf Links. Just don't expect to be scrolling down for ages discovering the history behind the myth, as the pages that are up are quite small to say the very least. It seems that more work has been put into the look of the site than the content. People who know a bit about Werewolves may find this slightly too basic and certainly children looking to get a bit more knowledge will want some images to accompany the text – what there is of it!

Address: http://falcon.jmu.edu/~pollarpe/werewolf.html

Rating:



Zombie Death Dungeon

If you see a character with its arms stretched out, wearing blood stained clothes and appearing from a grave, you can be fairly sure that it could be a

Not for those among you of a nervous disposition!

Zombie! If you've got a severe heart condition then it may be worth avoiding this site. More than anything, *Zombie Death Dungeon* is an excuse to display images of weird beings. Rather that explaining the myth of the Zombie, the site sets out to explore everything but useful data. You'll be intrigued by links such as Rotting Flesh of the Dead, Zombie Facials and Dance of the Dead and then be taken off to other pages (internal) which include downloadable sounds, songs and video. The only part that may seem half normal to an average surfer will be the poems located in the Prose section. So, when you next see a Zombie, stop and remember:

"Zombies are not your friends. Zombies are not movie stars. Zombies have no mercy. Zombies have zero capacity to love.

Zombies have but two real purposes: Killing human beings and eating them".

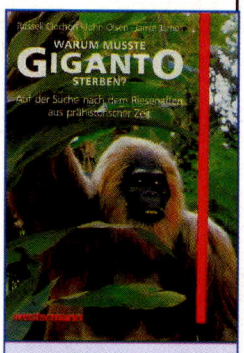
Load up the URL if you dare!

Address: http://www.gnli.com/zombie/

Rating:

Bigfoot Field Researchers' Resources Homepage

Mention Bigfoot to most Americans and they'll either probably start going on to you about the monster truck that crushes any car in its path or (and more relevant to this guide) will tell you tales of a creature who roams the hills of their country. This site has been launched to capture the interest of individuals intrigued about the myth of the monster. A total of five links will take you off to a massive Geographic Database of Bigfoot/ Sasquatch Sightings, Equipment, Online Maps and Links. If you've ever spotted either of these creatures (very likely!) then you can submit your report (alternatively, sell your story to a national newspaper) via a form page. It's a very big shame that there isn't any decent information here, like newspaper cuttings or personal views. Instead it's a very quickly put together site that doesn't have much appeal whatsoever. The links aren't even worth checking out. Big shame!



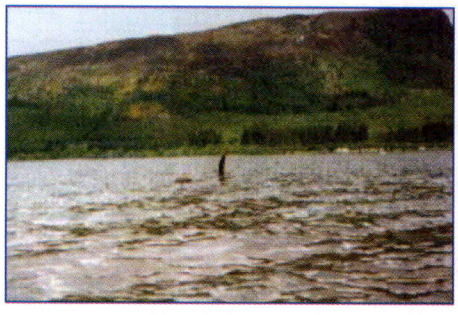
Use this sitw to report your sightings of the beast online.

Bigfoot Field Researchers' Resources
Geographic Database of Bigfoot / Sasquatch Sightings
Submit a Report, an Article, or Comments
Outfitters and Equipment
Online Maps, etc.
Other Bigfoot Pages

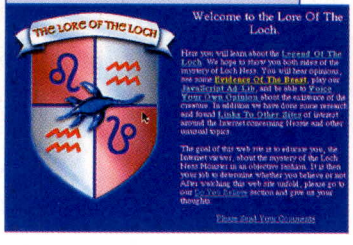
Address: http://www.moneymaker.org/BFRR/index.htm
Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

The Lore of the Loch

The mystery of the loch and its alleged fishy contents, have fascinated millions ever since the first sighting of the so called Loch Ness monster in July of 1933. Of course, there's been many more encounters with the underwater being since, in fact over 3000. Lore of the Loch is just one of many home pages dedicated to this amazing legend. Instead of being a site that just relays personal opinion, it instead offers a variety of information from other sources. There are four main links, The Legend, The Evidence, Do You Believe? and, of course, there's the links area. Probably the most interesting of all these is the evidence section, that includes images of the creature, plus a text file on sightings. If you'd rather have a bit of fun then a Javascript story option is available, making it all the more impressive. The presentation is pretty good and logos at the bottom of the screen stay there, thus reducing the amount of time you have to use the back button. This just adds to what is a very strong Loch Ness monster home page. A little more content and it would be brilliant.



A decent site with plenty of ideas and options, just needs a bit more content.



Address: http://www.gng.com/lore_of_the_loch/index.htm
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Blood Web!

The Vamp Page

If you're into images, you'll love the selection of photos and drawings on offer. The Vamp Page also includes quite a few worthwhile links!
Address: http://www.lanline.com/~kaneasante/page8.html
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

The Vampires Home Page

Interested in IRC? If so then this page will inform you on how to access the chat group. Quite a few images can be found here. Also includes Live Audio.
Address: http://www.wwnet.com./~train/
Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

Vampires

The first factor that'll hit you here is the red text which is unreadable on the page. Therefore, this is where my review of this page comes to an end. Oh dear!
Address: http://www.mi.aau.dk/~labich/vamp/vampires.html
Rating: ◆◇◇◇◇

Theatre Des Vampires

This is one of many Vampire links pages on the Web. Although there are plenty of other sites to choose from, there's lots of pointless images that do slow things down quite a bit.
Address: http://users.aol.com/mishian/nosferatu/TdV.html
Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

Vampires and the Dark Gift

Information on the movie *Bram Stoker's Dracula* plus quite a few images too. Not bad for a personal site, but could do with some work.
Address: http://www.public.iastate.edu/~garden/vampires.html
Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

Vampyre Faqs

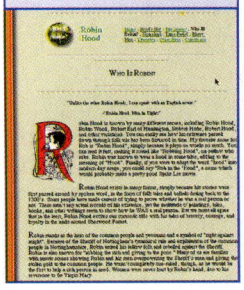
Are you more interested in reading than viewing pictures? If so, this collection of FAQs is bound to sink in a lot deeper (just like some fangs!) than a few pixels pulled together!
Address: http://www.vampyre.wis.net/vampyre/faqs/
Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

The Vampyre's List of Lists

Despite the rather sad presentation, if you're on the look for information on magazines, films, comics and books then *Fangdom* is bound to be your best place of rest... for a while.
Address: http://www.vampyre.wis.net/vampyre/lists/lists.html
Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Ben's Realm: Robin Hood on the Web

Discover the secrets of Robin and his merry men.



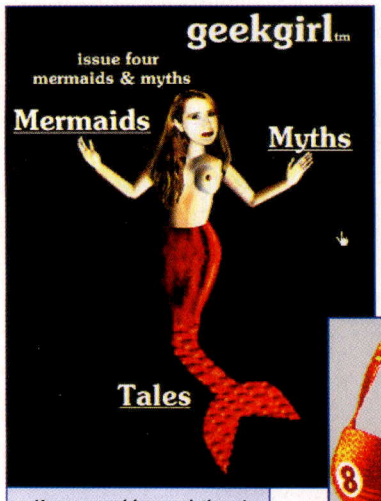
I was really quite amazed at the overall quality of this site. It may be sad to say it, but I was expecting a tacky looking page with hardly any useful information on the tight wearing country boy. Instead, what users will find here is a very slick and appealing site which is fast to load (28.8's) and offers useful content on not only Robin, but his homeland and the merry men who helped him battle with the rich to give to the... blah blah blah. Due to Robin living in green surroundings, the site does have a splash of the colour, but not so much that you'll vomit over it. One of the main downfalls is that there's a big lack of images. In fact I was unable to find any images of Robin, whether in a film or TV series. Saying that though, it does make the pages slightly quicker to load and more bearable for low-end users. Rather than just having links to other pages, you're given a description of what's included there. Once you've decided on one of the nine then you're taken to a very good looking sub page that's easy to follow and very good looking. Using the back button is also reduced as a small link guide is kept at the top of all pages. Great stuff indeed!

Address: **http://ccwf.cc.utexas.edu/~infinity/robinhood/**

Rating:

millions of color recommended for viewing Sherwood's full beauty
Robin Hood
The only Robin Hood page on the Web is now even better!

Geekgirl Issue Four - Myths and Mermaids

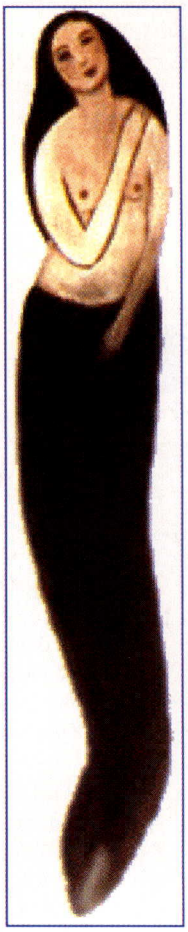


Keep searching and there's plenty on offer here.

Hmm. I don't know really what to say about this page. In fact, I am yet to come to a conclusion as to how sane this actually is. It's basically a magazine online and when I visited, *Geekgirl* (great name eh) was on its forth issue and three main links were screaming out from the page; Mermaids, Myths and Tales. Each of these will then take you to a smaller page of links, transporting you on once again to mutant related articles. There was also quite a good links page named Dip, Dunk, Dive? However, the main problem with the site is that the links are named so poorly you're unable to know what is there unless you download the page and read a few paragraphs. Even the description offered alongside the link is pointless in most cases. It has to be said that when you do come across something of interest, there is quite a bit to read and most of the features include images. If only the site was slightly more user friendly it would be great. As it is, you'll have to dive in deep to find what your looking for, preferably a foxy mermaid eh!

Address: **http://geekgirl.com.au:80/spy-food/geekgirl/004maid/index.html**

Rating:



Relevance to the mermaid myth of this image is zero!

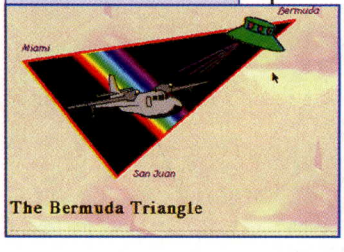
The Bermuda Triangle

Owned and maintained by Bubba The Salty Dog (I kid you not), if there's something that you want to know about the Bermuda Triangle then it's likely that this long text file will boost your knowledge. Instead of including many pages, the author has gone for the single page approach. Yes, if you wanted to, it is possible to scroll down for ages and just read the whole document. But for those of you who'd prefer to go straight to a specific section; The Sargasso Sea, The Ocean Floor, Where did it Happen etc, then links will take you straight down to the point of interest. Throughout the massive text file you'll find various hotlinks, be it a word or date. These will then take you off to other relevant areas in the text. The file has been written in fairly simple terms, so both adults and children will be able to relate to it. There's just one pitfall that comes with *The Bermuda Triangle* site and that is that there are no photos. Just one pathetic logo is located at the top of the screen and then bright line breaks are about the only colour you'll come across here. Apart from that, nice!

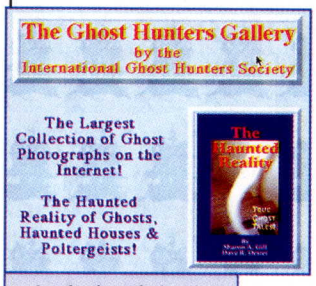
Address: **http://orion.it.luc.edu/~tgibson/triangle/tri.html**

Rating:

Seek out the truth about the mysterious Bermuda Triangle.



The Ghost Hunters Gallery

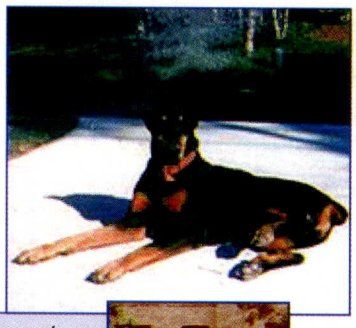

The Ghost Hunters Gallery
by the
International Ghost Hunters Society
The Largest Collection of Ghost Photographs on the Internet!
The Haunted Reality of Ghosts, Haunted Houses & Poltergeists!
The Haunted Reality

A selection of ghostly images that go bump in the night!

The list of ghost sightings must be endless, but take a minute to think about how many ghost related site are on the superhighway! Launched by the International Ghost Hunters Society, *The Ghost Hunters Gallery* is hardly massive, but includes quite a few images, which is why I decided to choose this one for the guide. However, despite all the photos, there is one thing that really annoyed me about this site. Rather than putting the work into the site and making it strong in content, most of the time and effort has been put into promoting a book named *The Haunted Reality*. This advertising is disappointing, especially as this site is meant to be by real life ghost hunters. Shouldn't it be packed with reports, newspaper articles and views from people all around the world? I think so. Yeah, so this is better than most efforts I came across, but it still doesn't have the haunted appeal that these kinds of home pages should have. And that's the kind of thing that would make a good ghost Web site.

Address: http://www.aone.com/~starwest/index.html

Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇



Too much time is spent on advertising their own ghost book.

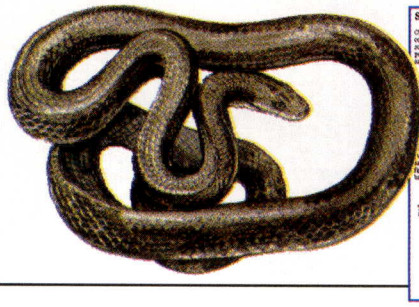
Snake Mythology

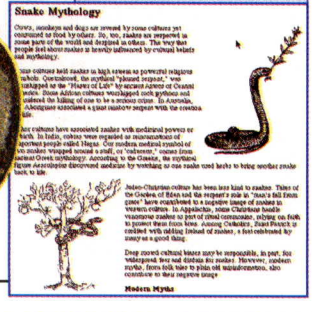
This snake mythology site is actually a sub-page of a bigger snake site that's called *An Interactive Guide to Massachusetts Snakes*, so take the myth.html off the URL to get there. Although it's not very big, the text featured here is rather interesting, covering quite a few issues from their eating habits to poison. Quite a big bit of the page looks at how cultures associate snakes with medicine. A few images have been dropped in, adding a bit more life to the site. As you'd expect, reading through the text reveals links, which in turn take you off to other areas within the venomous site. This is one of the more interesting, although alternative, myth related topics I came across on my travels. Well presented and well worth the short download time that it takes.

Address: http://www.umass.edu/umext/snake/myth.html

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

A well presented and unusual guide to snake mythology.





British Myths & Legends

Stone Henge

A very sad page that includes just three pictures of Stonehenge; Sunset, Close up and Aerial. Nice pictures, just a shame there's nothing else here of interest.

Address: http://131.236.109.116/stone.htm

Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

DragonSoul

A very well presented site that includes a song, pictures and stories – all dragon related. There's even an animation for those with capable browsers. Well worth checking this out. Hot!

Address: http://mama.indstate.edu/users/margman/dragon/dragonsoul.html

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Robin of Sherwood

A massive Robin Hood site with information on the series. Very well presented and includes frames, although these can be turned off if you wish. A gallant effort!

Address: http://plasa.interport.net/logomanc/ROS/index.html

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◆

The Beast of Bodmin Moor

Part of the Science Casebook, this is a very good, although annoying Web site. The reason for this is that the information is there, but you have to click every five seconds to get to the next page.

Address: http://www.nhm.ac.uk/sc/bm/

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Robert The Bruce

A very long text file on the Scottish character. If you like reading then you'll appreciate this. No pictures I'm afraid.

Address: http://www.scotweb.com/scottish/robbruce.htm

Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

Arthurian Home Page

"Dedicated to those valiant literary undertakers striving to bring scholarly material to the world of the Web." Loads of authur info, although it could do with some tidying up.

Address: http://calvin.stemnet.nf.ca/~djohnsto/arthur.html

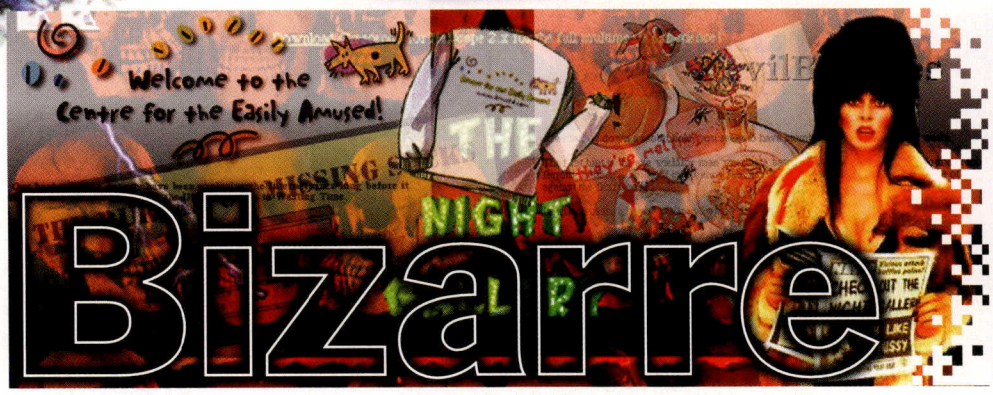
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Alt.fan.dragons Web Site

Apart from a few too many images, this Web site is great. There are loads of dragon files (sketch of the week is cool) and if you get fed up with it, you're able to make use of the many links.

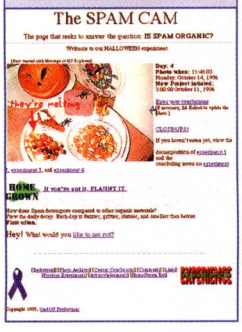
Address: http://icecube.acf-lab.alaska.edu/~fxdlk/

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇



It's time to check out some of the most outrageous, stupid and down right strange sites on the Internet. Not a job for the easily offended, as Simon Lovell discovered...

One for connoisseurs of the unusual.



The Spam Cam

Internet cameras have been around for a while now. On the whole most users of cams waste the potential at their disposal. However, some inventive people have the initiative to put cams online with more interesting content, this being a good example. Of course, when I first stumbled across the Spam Cam I didn't really know what to expect and, like any other Web user, was quite cautious of the title. After all. how could this sort of thing really be of any interest whatsoever?

As it goes, the author is actually a man on a mission, even if it is a rather dubious one. The mission here is to find out whether or not spam is organic? When I visited, a Halloween experiment was underway! Spooky maybe, but you'll be surprised at how much effort has gone into this home page. Plenty of material is on offer, from results to images, and for a personal effort the site isn't presented too badly either. Just don't expect too much activity when it comes to the spam though. I'd check back every couple of months to find out the answer to that all important organic question.

Attempting to discover if spam is organic.

Address: http://www.fright.com/cgi-bin/spamcam

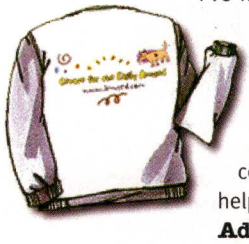
Rating:

A directory of links at your fingertips.

Centre for the Easily Amused

As with every genre and topic on the Internet, there is always a site available dedicated to providing links. This is one of the bigger and better presented pages, although I was quite surprised to find more than just hotlinks. Yes, CEA also has its own merchandise area where users can order mouse mats, caps and the obligatory t-shirts.

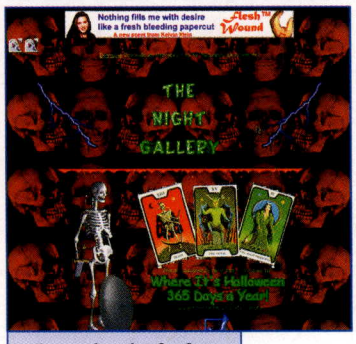
All the links have been divided into different categories, like Random Silliness, Movies & Television, Music & Magazine and Sport & Mac. Also on my last visit there, they were bragging about winning an award. I've never seen a site so big headed! Each of the main areas offers a fair few links and new sites are indicated with a small logo at the side. If you're on the look out for some rather different home pages and are easily amused, then this is certainly one site that's definitely going to help you find what you're looking for.



Address: http://www.amused.com

Rating:

The Night Gallery


Nothing fills me with desire like a fresh bleeding papercut
Flesh to Wound
THE NIGHT GALLERY
Where It's Halloween 365 Days a Year!

A popular site for fans of dark comedy.

The Night Gallery is very well known and once you've loaded it up it's very easy to understand why. Low-end users are bound to find all of the automatic loading sound files, animated GIFs and picture quantity a strain on their modems, but those with faster connections will no doubt enjoy all of this multimedia experience for a short time.

Sadly, after a short while, all the downloading seems to become a tad pointless and that's the main flaw here. There are simply loads of internal links to choose from though, and one of the best is The Rude Things in my Fridge which looks at a variety of rotten foods. Fans of *The Young Ones* will enjoy this kind of humour.

Each of the sub pages is just as weird and they can vary from very strange advice to a puzzling array of screaming sounds. It's one of those pages that has little genuine use, but really comes into its own when your mates come round and ask what's causing all those bizarre sounds your computer is making. It's then that you show them the mouldy takeaways and weird tales found on this site. Like it!

Address: http://www.wbm.ca/users/kgreggai/index1.html

Rating:

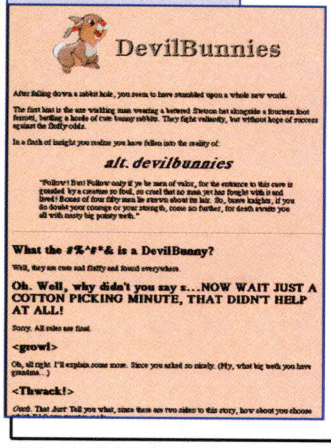
Devil Bunnies

Stop and think. If someone mentioned a Devil Bunny to you, what would spring to mind? A pop group maybe? Well according to this home page, they're going to "infiltrate our communities and take over the world."

Who would have thought that those pleasant fluffy animals that hop around fields and munch away on carrots when stuck in cages could be such ferocious, dangerous and callous creatures, intent on wiping out all humanity. Not for kids, this wacky site has actually been launched with the prime intention of promoting its newsgroup located at alt.devilbunnies. The site explains the ins and outs of the bunnies' intentions, plus alternate views from both parties, which are the FUDS (us humans to the balls of fluff) and the wicked Devil Bunnies themselves.

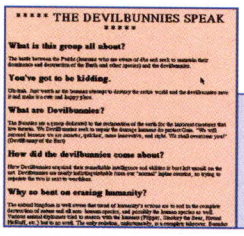
It's hardly surprising this site gets so many hits, it's just hilarious to read and by the time you've read all the well presented FAQ's you're bound to agree with me. Watch out though, these bunnies are not cute! Bambi will never be the same again. Oh Thumper, how could you?

These bunnies are out to destroy humanity!


DevilBunnies
alt.devilbunnies
What the #%^#*& is a DevilBunny?
Oh. Well, why didn't you say s...NOW WAIT JUST A COTTON PICKING MINUTE, THAT DIDN'T HELP AT ALL!
<growl>
<Thwack!>

Address: http://www.netimages.com/archives/alt.devilbunnies/

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇


***** THE DEVILBUNNIES SPEAK *****
What is this group all about?
You've got to be kidding.
What are Devilbunnies?
How did the devilbunnies come about?
Why no beat on erasing humanity?

A well presented site, full of witty humour.

The Bureau of Missing Socks

Losing your socks has to be the most annoying thing ever, forcing you to delve deep into your sock drawer. What happens then? Well, you end up showing yourself up in front of all of your mates by wearing one plain white sock and an accompanying black one – oh the humiliation.

Could this be your missing sock? The bureau investigates!

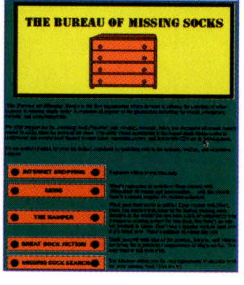
The Bureau of Missing Socks is the very first organisation devoted to solving the tricky question of what happens to those missing single socks. Apart from the rather poor quality logo located at the top of the main page, everything else is fairly mundane as far as presentation goes. However, when it comes to the editorial side of the site there are a massive 12 sections; including Internet Shopping, News, The Hamper, Missing Sock Search, Sock it Rich, Museum of Socks and Socks Incorporated. At the end of the day it's all a bit of fun and it's obvious as soon as you load this up you're going to have a laugh.

It's a shame most of the pages weren't completed at the time of going to press, although it hasn't had a bad response according to the hit counter. Interesting, but very strange!

Address: http://www.jagat.com/joel/socks.html

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Will be a great site once it's completed.



Pointless Web Sites

Pointless Fact Archive

A selection of rather strange facts, varying from subjects like the lifestyle of gerbils to the fun and frolics of The Krankies. Hmm, is this really worth the download time? Well, it's questionable.

Address: http://www.geocities.com/Athens/2694/fact.html

Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

Nifty Little Boxes

If you'd like a picture of Scooby Do and all his chums come here, otherwise it's an ideal example of the completely useless. Just try reading the text with that background. Eugh!

Address: http://www.unc.edu/~rsullend/boxes.html

Rating: ◆◇◇◇◇

It's the Pointless Page!!!

For a pointless page, this is actually quite good. You get a massive image at the start, accompanied by various plug-ins such as Java. After that, well... pointless really!

Address: http://www.customcpu.com/personal/burroughs/

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

My Pointless Animated GIFs

This site is definitely worth a visit. You can watch five wacky animated GIFs of the crazy author being crazy. Not for those with 14.4 connections!

Address: http://acm.msu.edu/~barnest2/animgifs.html

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Jim Shaw's New! Site & Other Pointless Stuff

Not a bad background image, but, just like the title points out, this is one site that's worth avoiding. Who gives birth to such Neanderthals? What a sad man.

Address: http://www.cs.brown.edu/people/jms/hi.html

Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

Danny's Sad Homepage

Blah, blah, blah – those are the words that invite you to this site. Here you'll get a couple of links and a few images. The Grover one is particularly funny. Oh Danny boy, your title says it all.

Address: http://www.stat.washington.edu/danny/

Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

The Official Ben Home Page

Just to let you know that this Web site is by no means connected with *Ben*, the TV series about a wild bear. Instead it's a complete waste of time. This bloke actually paid for this page to be online, God knows why.

Address: http://www.azstarnet.com/~jcwyant/tbenp.htm

Rating: ◆◇◇◇◇

Wired for fun

If you've got attitude then you've come to the right place. The Web is the ideal location to find everything that's hip and happening as our very own Simon Lovell discovered.

All you need to know about the games and the company...

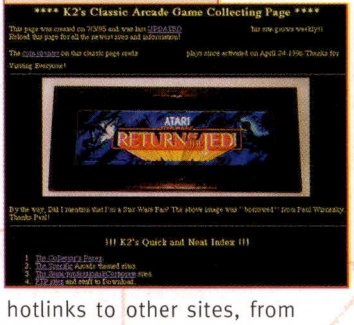
If you like to be up with the times this guide should be your bottle of Budwieser. Most of the sites are geared towards those who want to use Web sites with the intention of furthering their interests away from Cyberspace. The next 16 action packed pages cover home pages related to the latest happenings on the club scene, as well as guides to video games, Net games and, for fans of illustrations, comics too. In fact this guide's site of the month is awarded to *Web Comics*, a brilliant home page that brings together the work of comic artists from all over the world.

The games people play

Video game systems have been in our homes for many years and a plethora of the companies involved have found residence on the Web to promote their high-tech systems and new titles. The latest to find their way past all the gun shots and baddies are Gremlin Interactive, **(http://www.gremlin.co.uk/)**, who back in the Speccy days brought us games like *Bounder*. Now they're developing for new platforms like the PlayStation and Saturn and their site includes downloadable demos, cheats and news releases, although a retro area has been set up for fans of the older games. Gremlin have also made use of the plug-in Shockwave, bringing selected pages to life.

An even bigger historic look back can be found upon visiting **http://vax1.bemidji.msus.edu/~KBSU/arcade.html.** K2's *Classic Arcade Games* Page includes loads of hotlinks to other sites, from collectors pages to semi professional and FTP sites.

Nostalgic gamers should stop off here.



Nintendo are about to launch their new 64-Bit games system just after Christmas and Warbird's Nintendo 64 & PlayStation home page **(http://users.aol.com/warbird0/nintendo64.html)** is a regularly updated and stylish offering for those who own or want to know a little bit more abut the systems and what they've got on offer in terms of titles. The frames help a lot as there is quite a bit to read.

Now of course we're being bombarded with more Net games, but not ones which plug into a game system at home. Instead, companies such as Total Entertainment Network **(http://www.ten.net)** and Sierra **(http://www.sierra.com)** are developing multiplayer games, bringing thousands of Internet gamers together from every nook and cranny of the globe. Ten's site is very slick, you are able to

ALIEN TRIPS
SEEING THE MEDUSA
MEDUSA CENTER
ALL MALE ZYGORIANS MUST BY LAW "SEE THE MEDUSA" UPON APPROACHING MANHOOD!
OKAY SON GO ON IN WITH THE REST OF THE KIDS... KEEP A PURE HEART AND YOU'LL HAVE NO PROBLEM!
DING DONG
INSIDE THE MEDUSA CENTER, THE CURTAINS OPEN TO REVEAL THE MEDUSA!
LOOK INTO MY EYES IF YOU'RE MAN ENOUGH... BOYS!
GO! THE GUY NEXT TO ME IS TURNING INTO STONE!
AFTERWARDS...
GOSH DAD! DID ALL THOSE KIDS THAT TURNED INTO STONE HAVE IMPURE HEARTS
YES SON! THE GOVERNMENT SAYS THAT THIS PROCESS RIDS OUR SOCIETY OF FUTURE CRIMINALS!
MEANWHILE... THE RANDOMLY CHOSEN LIVE ESSENCES STORED IN THE MEDUSA ROBOT ARE PUMPED INTO STORAGE TANKS THAT ARE USED TO FUEL THE VEHICLES OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS!

Whatever your particular taste in comics you'll find it catered for on the Web.

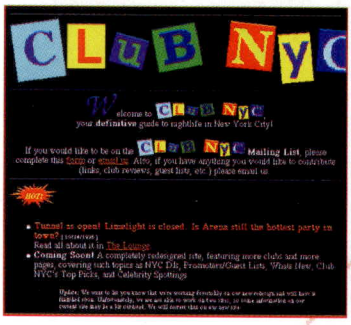
download games and then use them to join others in blood-thirsty battle playing titles such as *Duke Nukem 3D* and *Quake*. Expect a lot more companies to be creating these type of games.

Kids Stuff?

Even though many people associate comics with *The Beano* or *Dandy*, the Internet has a far broader imagination, with many individuals displaying their own work online and who can blame them. Where one of these comics may sell a few thousand on the shelves, on the Web a personal page will attract a far greater audience. Yes, there are quite a few famous characters online and you'll see just how many in the four page guide starting on page 94. One that's definitely worth a look is *The Comics Hotlist*, so scribble down this URL: **http://www.uta.fi/yhteydet/personalhl.html.** By clicking in small boxes, it enables you to create your own personal page of comic strips. You could have just one, but then again you could have 15 or more. The quality is great and if you need a bit of a laugh then some of them will surely get you giggling. Another good personal comic page can be found at **http://www.artcomic.com/.** Use a bar of links to guide you to loads and loads of strips. Some of the pages are brought to life with animated GIFs, most of which are flies nipping around the browser.

Largin' It

Everyone likes a good night out on the town and many Internet sites are out there to promote a sorts of events. There are plenty of club promotions, ensuring that



even more party animals know about the big nights out. Updated monthly, the *London Dance Club Scene* home page is an online guide to people who want to know about what's going on in London on certain days of the week. By visiting **http://www.demon.co.uk/london-calling/mdance.html** you will be able to select a daily link, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday etc, and the Web page will bring up a list of the best clubs to visit with information on the type of music, the location and the contact number.

If you happen to be passing New York City then the nightlife there is the focus of *Club NYC* located at **http://www.clubNYC.com/.** The colourful site lists clubs in a variety of ways; alphabetically, by the type of music, geographically and daily. Choose one and then simply browse through the hundreds on offer.

As you can see from the links listed here, there are plenty of fun sites on the Net, designed to attract people with all kinds of interests. If you fancy raving it up in a club or taking it easy at home with your favourite comic, this is the section for you.

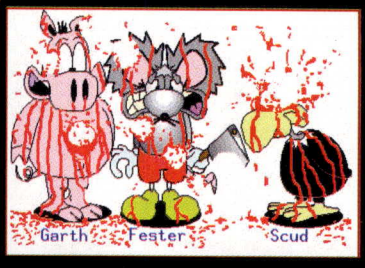
If you feel London's calling, go to this site to plan your big night out.

London dance club scene - November
Mondays | Tuesdays | Wednesdays | Thursdays | Fridays | Saturdays | Sundays
Also on AOL-UK - keyword: LCI (or keyword: london calling)

SITE OF THE MONTH

Web Comics

http://www.webcomics.com/

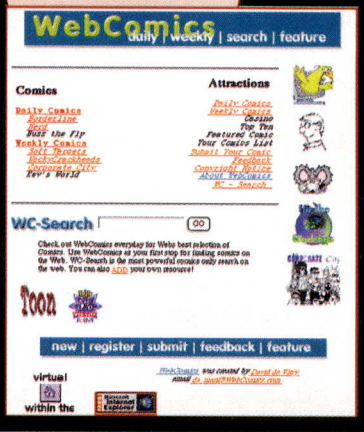


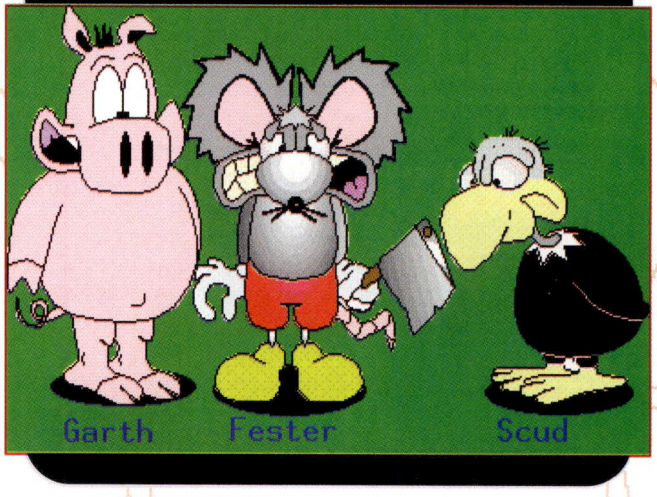
Out of all the comic pages visited, *Web Comics* was the only one that I would bother making a bookmark for. Instead of having known characters on his page, David (the author) has invited unknown artists to show off their skills in this well presented virtual gallery.

There are so many different strips on the site that a search option has been implemented to make life easier for those who know what they've gone here for. Although I found it much more enjoyable to flick around the links and just load up a few pages randomly. Two of the biggest links you'll find are Daily and Weekly which take you to the regularly updated sites.

***Web Comics* will save you scouting around the rest of the Web for lots of smaller sites, as it includes loads and loads of them. Most of the art that is featured also includes a hotlink to the artists email address so you can find out more about his/her work and, if you're feeling kind, even give them a little praise to boot. Of course, this site wouldn't be the same without the option of submitting your very own artwork and a special form page is here to get your work onto the repeatable site.**

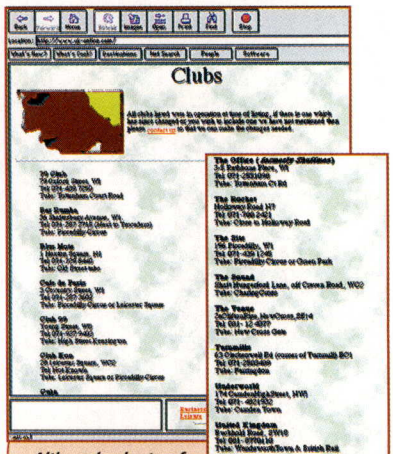
An awesome array of links are available.





The Net may not be a substitute for a good Friday or Saturday night out – after all you can't get Cyberslaughtered yet! You will however be able to gain loads of information on the club scene via the superhighway, as our resident raver, Simon Lovell, found out...

London Clubs



Although plenty of clubs are mentioned, more info about each one is needed.

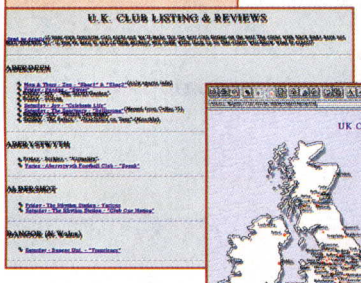
As part of the big *UK Online* site, the London clubs section though long is no where near detailed enough to be a top resource. The list gives you the name of the club, address, telephone number and nearest tube. There could certainly be a lot more information included, such as what nights are the best, what music they play and even a downloadable map would have been a nice touch. As it is though there's limited data and club goers are left to find out most of the information for themselves. Like many of these list pages, they request that you email them if you know of somewhere hip and happening they've failed to mention. Finally, I don't know what the image at the top of the screen is all about but it's absolutely awful and looked to have nothing to do with the club scene whatsoever. Check it out and if you have any suggestions about its origins please email me.

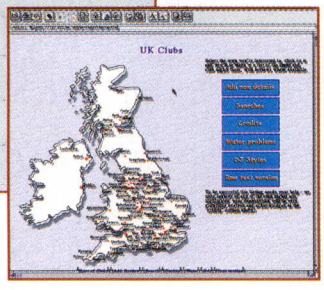
Address: http://www.uk-online.com/

Rating: @ @ ◇ ◇ ◇

A complete guide to clubbing in the UK.

UK Clubs





I loaded up the site and was instantly forced to expand my browser to the full – not a good start. *UK Clubs* is where hard core party animals will be able to plan their top nights out with a guide to clubs all around the United Kingdom. You can either have a raw text version of the site or you could always go for the option of the image map of the UK. Simply select one of the many area with a dot and you'll be whisked away to a list of clubs in the area. It also includes a good A-Z directory of well known DJs, together with a description of the style of music that they play. I can't see what use this is as it doesn't tell you what area they're playing in? Visitors to the site are invited to review clubs that they've visited. Apart from the initial browser problem, this is a great place to come if you're looking for a change of scene.

Address: http://137.222.84.160/uk-clubs/clubmap.htm

Rating: @ @ @ @ ◇

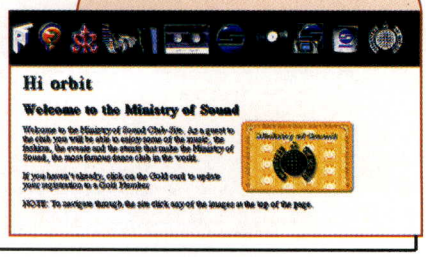
Ministry of Sound

The Ministry of Sound is currently celebrating its fifth birthday and I have to say that if you're just passing the site and know nothing about it then you may find it very difficult to understand what's going on. A frame at the very top of the page has logos, but the site fails to explain them with links, another drawback for newcomers. If you're visiting for the first time then you'll be required to become a member, thankfully for this review, it doesn't cost anything. So what's inside to get you raving to the full? Well for starters, selected budding dance artists' demos can be downloaded and there's a merchandise page, but more importantly there is information on live events, which will no doubt have dance fans on their feet. Again, it's extremely hard to navigate your way around and it's very easy to get lost in the frenzy of links available. A very self promoting site, it's a pity there isn't more raw dance info. Only visit this site if you have the patience of a saint.

Address: http://www.ministry-of-sound.com

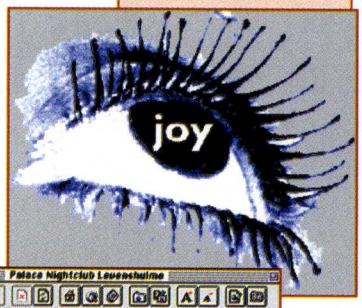
Rating: @ @ @ ◇ ◇

A site that tests your patience...

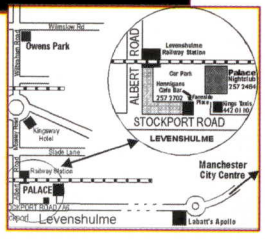


Palace Nightclub

The Palace is one of the few online clubs



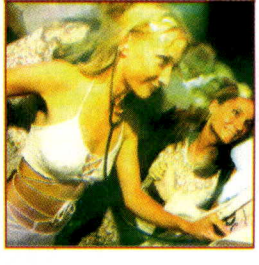
The Palace Club is in Manchester and they're one of the few nightclubs that have decided to create a home page on the Net. My instant reaction was one of sadness as I loaded up the first page. It was all text based and there was nothing that looked worthwhile. However, I was willing to give it a chance and my opinion soon changed as I entered the second main page. There you will find seven links; Manchester Irish Festival 97, Club Nights, Bands, Sport, Karaoke, Comedy and How to get to us. If you fancy a bit of midday football then the club invites you to watch games at the club and fixtures are shown on the site. Even though the club page does give information on each of the nights, it wasn't as great as I had expected and frankly the other pages were more entertaining.



Address: http://www.palace-club.co.uk/
Rating: @@@◇◇

London Clubs - Charlies House

There are some sights on this site!



Apart from spouting complete gibberish, this site is full of top totty images and links to other club related sites. There is also a pretty good background image too. It seems to have been updated quite often, but to be honest the images will be far more useful to users than the text. The author has decided not to write an introduction meaning that it's incredibly difficult to work out what the hell the site is going on about. The mix of gross colours doesn't help much either. Some nice animated GIFs have been put to use and there's not too many of them either (that's a change). Each of the groovy party images includes a caption, but again these don't make much sense, especially if you know nothing about the site.

If you do visit *Charlies House* you'll be doing the author a favour as when I visited he only had 105 hits on his counter – shame!

Address: http://www.palace-club.co.uk/travel.html#travel
Rating: @@◇◇◇

Alcoholic Beverages

Jack Daniels

JD and Coke anyone? Enter the distillery to get information on how the whisky is, well, distilled. PC users can even download a JD screensaver, great!
Address: http://www.jackdaniels.com
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Beershots: The Gallery

This site takes scrumptious, microscopic looks at beers and lagers from all around the world. Yes, they take pictures believe it or not through an optical microscope. Everything from Fosters to Becks and Newcastle Brown.
Address: http://micro.magnet.fsu.edu/beershots/
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

The Ministry of Tequila Page

Suck the salt, drink the drink, suck the lemon! Sadly there's no sign of any worms here, but there is plenty of info, including the best way to down a Tequila Slammer. Get ready for the urge!
Address: http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/bigjohn/mot_home.htm
Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Cocktail Magazine

The best and easiest way of getting slaughtered. Find out all the best concoctions to mix at this well presented online magazine. Loads internal links.
Address: http://www.cocktail.com/index.html
Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

The Unofficial Guide to Drinking Games

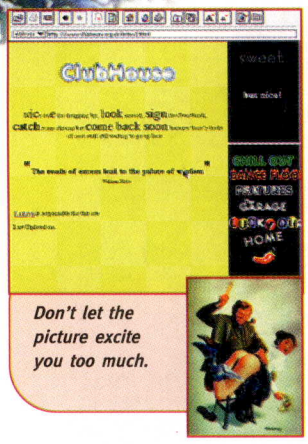
Nothing like a few drinking games to get you pepped up for the long night ahead. This guide looks good and has all kinds of weird and wonderful types to test out.
Address: http://kalypso.cybercom.net-/~japril/drgames.html
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Paul's UK Beer Page

Very dull site which mainly comprises links to other beer related sites. There's also some information on local pubs. Might be worth it for real ale drinkers.
Address: http://www.realale.org.uk/beer/paul/index.html
Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

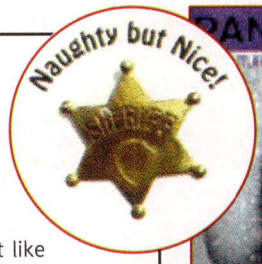
Stella Artois

Stella is my favourite alcoholic beverage, so I was hoping for something good here. Sadly you just get pages and pages to click on and each one has a boring image with accompanying text on how the lager is brewed. I got bored after the first couple of pages.
Address: http://www.lowehoward-spink.co.uk/stella1.html
Rating: ◆◇◇◇◇



Don't let the picture excite you too much.

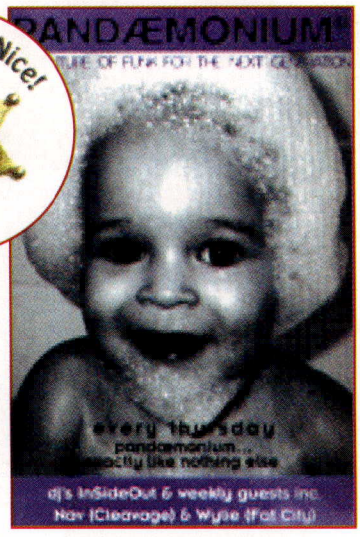
Clubhouse



This very slick, club oriented page makes use of frames and has some nice areas, one of which includes interviews, a quiz and a club directory (with pictures). Again, the list of clubs could be a lot better and just an address and telephone number is provided. Lucky Dip is the name given to the infamous links area and, just like the name suggests, you can't select where you want to go, the site automatically selects for you – an extremely annoying and frustrating idea. I was also curious to discover what the image of the chilli was all about, but the page it lead to was more cold than hot, as there was nothing there. Chill Out is the area to be in if you're on the search for a record as you can use forms to post messages. The entire site is on the bare side and there's not one section worth spending too much time in. Very nice presentation and all, but I can't see it appealing to many club maniacs looking for a laugh.

Address: http://www.clubhouse.org.uk/index2.html

Rating: @ @ ◇ ◇ ◇



DJ Rhythms

As far as I'm concerned, you go into a club, listen to the music, chat up a few girls, have a good time and then leave – hopefully not alone. During that time, it never really crossed my mind who's dealing with the decks and whacking out the vibes. But for some, what makes a top night is the DJ and this is one of many Disc Jockey pages on the Net. It lists all the latest hot dance tunes and mixes internal information with hundreds of DJ and music related links, from labels to individual artists and dance sites. Much of *DJ Rhythms* is easy to wander round as permanent links are stored at the top of the screen to save time on the "Back' button. Saying that though, you'll soon get exhausted just looking at the clutter of text and hyperlinks. What it all needs is someone to come in with a Cyberbroom and tidy things up a bit. Lets just thank God for the search engine, which has been fine tuned to allow visitors to go directly to what they're looking for. New additions to the page, as per usual, are indicated with small (and rather tacky this time) logos. A great site for those in need of loadsa links.

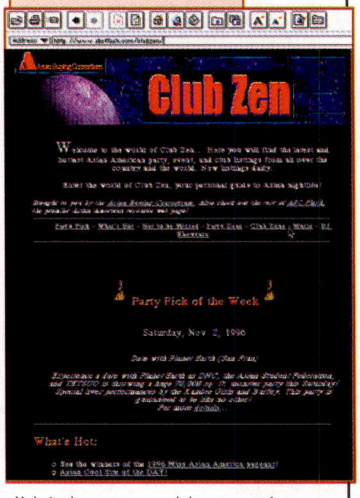
Address: http://nabalu.flas.ufl.edu/djemhome.htm

Rating: @ @ @ ◇ ◇

Although informative, the site needs to make its links easier to follow.

Club Zen

A concise guide to Asian clubbing.



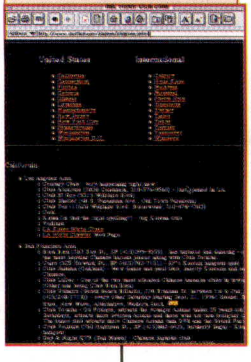
Before I visited Club Zen I didn't know the foggiest about Asian clubbing. Apparently there are Asian party zones all over the States, ranging from star populated Los Angeles to Washington and Ilinois. If you want to know more then the information available provides quite a bit of detail, from the location to admission costs, restrictions, features and contact numbers. This certainly makes a change from some of the UK pages. There's even a nice addition of an International listing, but there's sadly no UK ones included and we thought England was a clubbing Mecca!

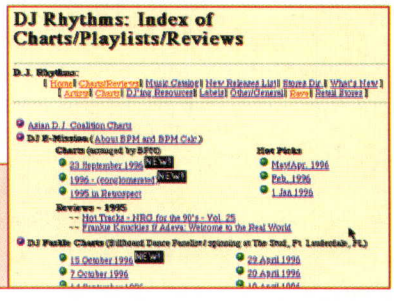
The club directories are the most useful part of the site and the rest of the links were for other dance or Asian pages. Because the main focus point was on making the club listings big, not much work was put into the design, although I didn't have a problem getting around. In fact it was quite easy. It's just a shame that no more work has been put into it. Some kind of pictorial would have given it a lift. Sadly as it is *Club Zen* lacks energy and you're left wanting to know more about the scene.

Address: http://www.abcflash.com/clubzen/

Rating: @ @ ◇ ◇ ◇

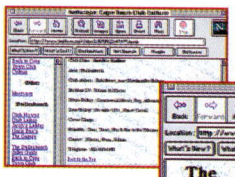
This is predominantly US based.





DJ Rhythms is a links based site, which is packed to bursting with relevant info.

Cape Town Club Culture



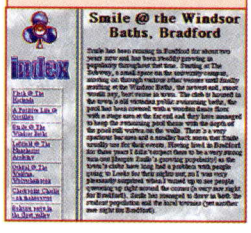
Going to Cape Town? Well check this out.

If you're living in Cape Town, or are planning a visit there for endless club sessions on the town, this site is dedicated to those wanting to get more info on all the clubs there. The site makes great use of frames with each of the clubs listed down the left hand side of your browser. They're split up into different areas; Southern, Northern, Stellenbosch, Atlantis and Out of Town. Simply click on one and within seconds you'll be presented with the area, address, resident DJ, music policy, door policy, cover charge, contact and telephone number of the specific club. *Cape Town Club Culture* is also the official distributor of the World Wide Web Singles Chart and as you would expect, you can check back every week for the latest single update. At the moment, one area that needs to be worked on is the reviews section, as there's only nine. The ones that are featured have been kept short and sweet, with only the really vital information pointed out. Very slick, fast loading and, most of all, big.

Address: http://www.icafe.co.za/clubs/
Rating: @@@@◇

Out of Order

Dance yourself dizzy at this cool site.



Just launched, *Out of Order* is a frame heavy, online dance magazine with attitude. Pages are nicely put together meaning you won't be off elsewhere seconds after loading it. It may seem that, with a massive 15 bright logos to click on, the site is packed to bursting with information, but this isn't the case. Yes, there's enough here to spend at least an hour reading; reviews, interviews and a great club reviews area, but it's not as big as you'd instantly think. A second copy of the logos are in a frame down the left hand side of the screen. These are all very well for those who are familiar with the site and have been scouting round it for ages, but will cause unnecessary problems for newcomers. They are unclear and you really have to learn them first. My worst complaint is a small although important gripe – there's no introduction letting people know what the site is all about. People are expected to jump in at the deep end without a clue of what's here. If you know about the dance scene then yeah, you'll like *Out of Order* pages. Beginners looking for a challenge, step in too!

Address: http://www.generate74.com/ooo/issue2/mainpage.htm
Rating: @@@◇◇

Fashion Labels

Armani Exchange

You won't just find clothing here, there are several other links to various features such as Shows and Behind the Scenes, while The Quiz Show has weekly prizes up for grabs. Not bad.

Address: http://www.armaniexchange.com/ax/index1.html
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Wicked Temptations Ltd

One for the girls. This commercial site shows off its flirt dresses, thongs, bras and every other bit of erotic gear to make any man go weak at the knees! No doubt the boys will want to check out this one for the pictures too. Not for the easily shocked.

Address: http://steamedheat.com/dresses.html
Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Firstview

View collections from loads of top designers like Calvin Klein, Ralph Lauren and Armani at this photography publication. Great site, plenty of clothes. Very good.

Address: http://www.firstview.com/home.html
Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Cocky Attitude Klothing

Be cocky and order one of many CK (cocky klothing) items, including t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, shorts, and boxers. Nice design, the site doesn't look bad either.

Address: http://www.cocky.com/cockynew.htm
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Fruit of the Loom

Everyone at one time must of had some kind of a *Fruit of the Loom* t-shirt. Here there's quite a bit of company info plus data on their products. Could do with sweetening up though. Pretty dull.

Address: http://www.fruit.com/
Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

Blue System

Use thumbnails to view the summer collection of gear. Quite nice but some page are still under construction. Very fast to download seeing as most of the pages are images of the clothing.

Address: http://www.jetset.ch/Pages/BlueSystem.html
Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

United Colours of Benetton

Find out about latest products from press releases. A search option will enable you to get around the site easier and there's also an online postcard area for those who have friends to send them to.

Address: http://www.benetton.com/
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Sega, Sony, Nintendo et al are all competing for your hard earned cash, but how do they fare in Cyberspace? With his joypad clutched firmly in hand, Simon Lovell goes in search of the sites that really pack a punch!

Sega Online

The latest Sega games are all online.

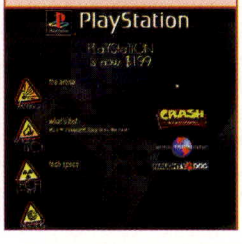
Since the launch of Sega Online, the site has grown dramatically over the past year, and one of the major reasons for this was the launch of the Saturn, which meant the arrival of a host of new games.

The site also boasts some unique features of its own. One of them is NetLink which allows Saturn owners to access the Web via their own system. Sega Online also brings together gamers through Sega Live, which comprises of Live Chat and Sega Threads, which lets users exchange messages on a wide variety of Sega topics; including the Saturn, Game Gear, Sega Sports, Arcade Games or Pico. Finally the Sega Channel is now available to all subscribers. Overall, Sega Online is extremely big and, despite the inevitable game logos and screenshots, it still download fairly quickly. With plenty of information and the option to chat to other gamesplayers, this is the ideal meeting point for Sega enthusiasts. If you want an even closer look at Sega games before they hit the UK and can read Japanese, try checking out http://www.sega.co.jp for more information.

Address: http://www.sega.com **Rating:** @@@@@

Sony PlayStation Home Page

Get the lowdown on all Sony's titles



Like the little girl who had a little curl, this site can be very good, but it can also be absolutely awful. The reason for this lies with the frames – there are so many it makes the page look extremely tacky. The other version is a completely different kettle of fish and includes a stylish background image that any site would die for. Visitors to the site are able to select from four main triangular logos; Arena, What's Hot, Tech Specs and finally Under Ground. It's just a shame there's no description of what each of them offers. For most visitors, Arena will be the most useful area. It lists current and upcoming titles and a search can be executed to find any Sony Computer Entertainment or Pysgnosis game. The big game at the Sony site when I visited was *Crash Bandicoot* – a platform game in the Super Mario mould.

There is quite a lot of useful information here, but it's not way as big as Sega Online. Then again, Sony are comparative newcomers when compared to the legend that is Sega!

Address: http://www.sepc.sony.com/SCEA/index.html

Rating: @@@@◇

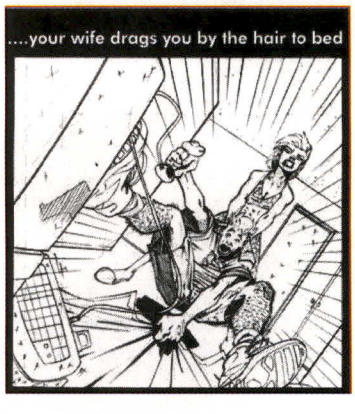
Gamepen

A massive site that will appeal to total gaming addicts.

It was clear that this was going to be a whopper of a site just by scrolling down the page through all the links found under the four main categories of Game Play, Game News, Reference and Random. The *Gamepen* site is simply massive with loads of downloads on offer and, in the unlikely event you should get bored, there is even a yellow pages of game related sites. This could have been a site in its own right. *Game Pen* is much more than the typical reviews and downloads usually associated with this type of offering. It also has a Reference area, with guides to consumer reports and jobs within the gaming industry. Another clever little touch is the use of game related cartoons, which are scattered liberally around the site. Not the best designed Web site on offer, but certainly one of the most comprehensive on offer.

Address: http://www.gamepen.com

Rating: @@@@◇

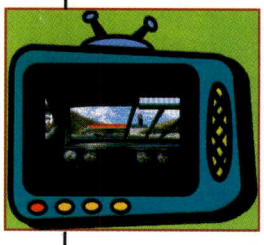


Hyper@ctive

Don't miss this site – a stunning effort.

Now this is a site to really reckon with. Updated daily, *Hyper@ctive* is brought to us by a bunch of guys and gals from down under. The massive 11 areas on offer are Home, Arena, Contest, Hotshots, Reviews, Letters, Links, About, Code, Downloads and News, each of which is superbly presented and easy to follow.

The framed site makes it easier to navigate around the mass of information on offer. Whether you're stuck on a game or need a professional's opinion, everything you need and more is here and updated regularly. The only area that could cause confusion for UK users is the cheats section, which uses codes, tips etc. that aren't compatible with the different version of the console used over here. However from the hundred and hundreds of cheats on offer, you're bound to find some that will aid your gameplaying. All serious gamers should check this site out, you certainly won't be disappointed.

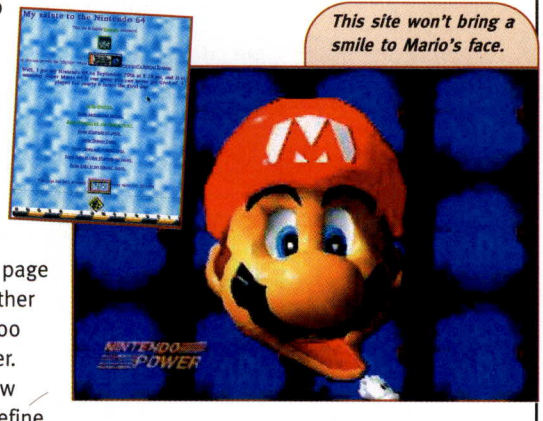


Address: http://www.hyperactive.com
Rating: @@@@@

My Salute to the Nintendo 64

Nintendo's new console is meant to be the best thing since sliced bread, so it's a real shame that some of its supporters are designing dreadful pages like this. For starters, all the information is scattered throughout the pages, pictures are very poorly placed and the whole ensemble lacks any semblance of quality. Pointless movies are constantly being imported, while the animated GIFs are nothing more than annoying. Even with the system out in both Japan and the States, there's still no sign of any reviews here. In fact much of the data provided has been around for a while and won't attract fans looking to get more up to date information on the 64. To force search engines to pick up the site, William, the author, has annoyingly written hundred and hundreds of words at the bottom of the site. This gave me a dim view of the page and I know that other users won't take too kindly to this either. Finally, I don't know what you would define "some links to other Nintendo 64 pages" as, but if two other sites constitute this in your book you'll be happy with what's on offer.

This site won't bring a smile to Mario's face.



Address: http://www.sundial.net/~ptgross/
Rating: @◇◇◇◇

Major Publishers

Team 17

Stunning as ever, the Team 17 site has had yet another re-design. It houses information on the company and most of their top game titles, such as the smash hit *Worms*.
Address: http://www.team17.com
Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Virgin Interactive Entertainment

Get shocked (Shockwave) at Virgin's gaming site. Download demos and find out the latest news. Very image heavy but good all the same. Fairly good online technical support.
Address: http://www.vie.com
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Psygnosis Online

Another slick publisher's site with downloadable videos and demos on their latest games. There is also information on new releases and useful technical support areas.
Address: http://www.psygnosis.com/
Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Electronic Arts

Home to not just EA but EA Sports, Origin and Bullfrog. Too many big logos slow things down, although there is good technical help and plenty of information for fans of their titles.
Address: http://www.ea.com/
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Namco - The Official Website

Namco are the PlayStation and Arcade kings but there could be a lot more on their Web site. The main image takes ages to download and there is a real lack of quality information. Nice FAQ section though.
Address: http://www.namco.com/
Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

Gremlin Interactive

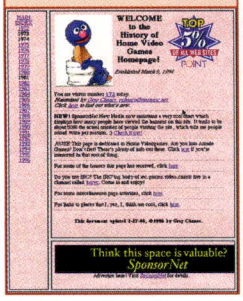
Very nice site (very green as well), which when I visited included a downloadable Normality screen saver and several demos. Also offers cheats for some of their games.
Address: http://www.gremlin.co.uk/
Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Ubi Soft

Ubisoft are a smaller publisher who are known for such games as *Rayman* and the new release *Street Racer*. Downloads are available and the site also incorporates frames.
Address: http://www.ubisoft.com/
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

The History of Video Games Homepage

The place to turn back the gaming clock.



Fed up with all that brand new technology and want to get something retrospective to read up on? If so then *The History of Video Games* will no doubt take you into the depths of time and have you remembering the good old days of *Pong* and other classics. The archive of information dates back to 1972 and you can then travel on up the ladder of years until you reach 1996. The site makes good use of frames, with the middle box being the main place for data. Sadly there isn't a great deal of depth here and you'll notice that links have been used to save the author doing a lot of work himself. It's a shame such a good idea for a site hasn't been utilised more fully. So much more could have been done with both the look and, more importantly, the content. Despite this it's still fun to visit and take a trip down memory lane.

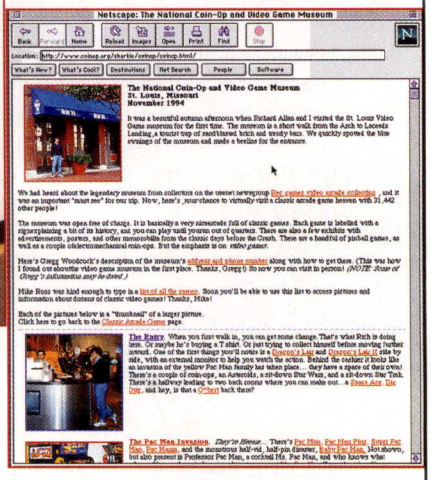
Address: http://www.sponsor.net/~gchance/

Rating: @@◇◇◇

The Virtual Coin-Op Museum

A chance to remember the great arcade machines of yesteryear.

After expressing disappointment at the last historical site, I thought I might as well include one that is quite good. Located in the States, St. Louis, Missouri to be precise, this is the online version of a coin-op museum. It's open to arcade enthusiasts looking to find out more about the old arcade machines that captured the imagination of the early gamers. It's hardly the most impressive site in terms of design, but lots of text and images can be found throughout the many pages on offer. There are various rooms that can be visited, each includes its own collection of machines, from *Pac Man* to *Pong* and *Tetris* to *Tron*. Plenty of photos are available and these are supported by quite a bit of background information. Hardly as good as going to the actual location in the States and playing the real machines, but if you're not prepared to splash the cash to go and see the museum (Who would?) then this makes a great substitute.

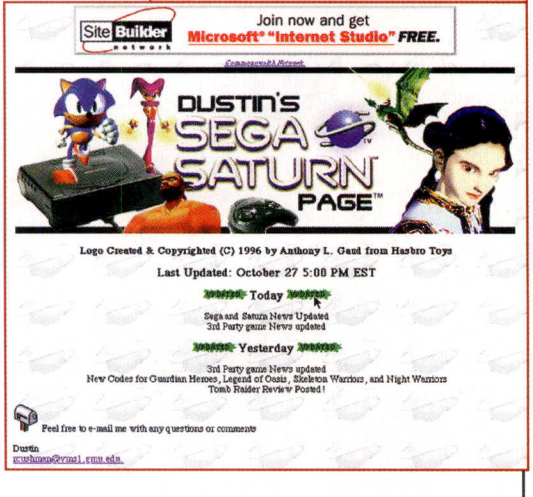

Netscape: The National Coin-Op and Video Game Museum
The National Coin-Op and Video Game Museum
St. Louis, Missouri
November 1994

Address: http://www.coinop.org/

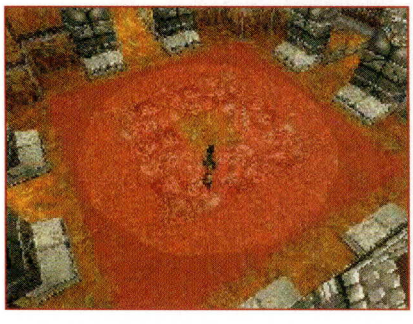
Rating: @@@◇◇

Dustin's Sega Saturn Page

An excellent example of a fan site – others should take note.


SiteBuilder network
Join now and get Microsoft® "Internet Studio" FREE.
DUSTIN'S SEGA SATURN PAGE™
Logo Created & Copyrighted (C) 1996 by Anthony L. Gaul from Hasbro Toys
Last Updated: October 27 5:00 PM EST
Today
Sega and Saturn News Updated
3rd Party game News updated
Yesterday
3rd Party game News updated
New Codes for Guardian Heroes, Legend of Oasis, Skeleton Warriors, and Night Warriors
Tomb Raider Review Posted!
Feel free to e-mail me with any questions or comments
Dustin

You don't get much better fan sites than *Dustin's Sega Saturn Page*. A lot of these sites brag about updating their pages frequently where in fact they don't at all. However, Dustin does update, in fact nearly every day, with new images, reviews or news around the system. Unlike quite a few other Sega and Sony based fan pages, most of the work is done by the author. A quick jump bar located near the top of the screen makes it easier for you to find what you're looking for and a rather nice green logo represents areas that have been updated within the past few days. Whether you're on the search for recent or old game images, press releases, game lists or cheats, you can pretty much guarantee that Dustin will have the goods. This is one site that other Web authors should look at to see how a site should be presented. Well done Dustin.



Address: http://www.erols.com/rdustin/saturn/saturn.html

Rating: @@@@@

The Hi-Fi Gaming Page

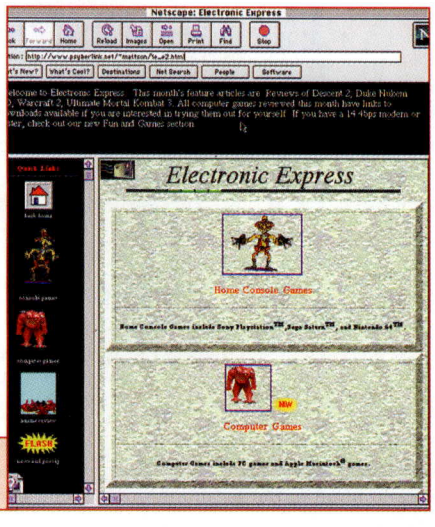
A venue for your top gaming tunes, but don't expect too many sound files to be on offer.

Now here's something original. A gaming page that's dedicated to awesome video game music. Although I was quite confused about the true focus of the site as there seems to be more pictures than sound files. Also, don't get sucked in by the marble background, it's very nice but sadly everything that lies on it is splashed around in a careless manner and brings down what is a great idea. Even though the site is meant to be under construction, to set up a whole page that's meant to revolve around sound files means there should be a few more to download. Maybe if you check back in a few months there will be loads more, but I wouldn't guarantee it. On the plus side there are some handy downloading tips, including the file size and whether it is stereo or mono. Sadly though that's about it, another disappointment.

Address: http://www-scf.usc.edu/~vetayase/
Rating: @ @ ◇ ◇ ◇

Electronic Express

Frames are fine in some cases and so are animated GIFs. In this case however, none are really needed and all they do is take up valuable download time. Some of the GIFs (even though the exploding Mickey Mouse was chuckle worthy) were even used more than once on a page. The whole site is pretty worthless and if you've come here for reviews on console or computer games, I'm afraid to say you'll be disappointed. My first port of call was the console review area and naturally enough I was expecting quite a few reviews on the latest titles, such as *Tomb Raider* and *Wipeout 2097*. Upon entering though I was presented with quite the opposite – a single paltry review of *Mortal Kombat 3* on the Saturn was just sitting there. All in all this was a major disappointment! Electronic maybe, but to even think of calling this express is ludicrous. Avoid this site like you would a shower in a prison.



Address: http://www.psyberlink.net/~mattson/ie_e2.html
Rating: @ ◇ ◇ ◇ ◇

This site lacks top quality reviews of the latest games.

You're Cheating!

Hyper@ctive Code

Choose a game cheat from nine different platforms. Alternatively add your own. The list of codes are endless and you won't be disappointed. Brilliant!

Address: http://hyperactive.com/games/index2.html
Rating: ◆◆◆◆◆

Games and Cheats - The Cheat Zone

A very well put together cheat site that includes mostly PC walkthroughs, small cheats and longer FAQs. Some console cheats though. Massive!

Address: http://www.cheatzone.com/maincheat.html
Rating: ◆◆◆◆◆

Ryan's Cheat Sheet

Ryan makes out that this is his page, but how come most of the links go off to sites like Hyperactive. Very dull - you might as well go straight to the sites that he's stolen the cheats from in the first place.

Address: http://www.angelfire.com/free/ryancheat.html
Rating: ◆◇◇◇◇

Tim's Clubhouse

Quite big but very disorganised and hard to get around. Tim has just changed to a different server making the site slightly faster. I've seen better, but worth a peek if the other sites don't satisfy.

Address: http://www.heatersworld.com/games/body2.html
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

The Unofficial World of Nintendo

Personal geocities page that is scattered with Nintendo character images. Very untidy, but has a nice selection of tips for the NES, SNES, Gameboy and also a few for the new Nintendo 64.

Address: http://www.geocities.com/SiliconValley/Park/1026/
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Cheat Machine

This is actually a program that you have to download for your PC. It then features 670 PC and over 100 Amiga cheats. There are easy to follow instructions and good description of how it works and what it does.

Address: http://www.sliceoflife.com/official/aforest/cm.htm
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Happy Puppy Cheats

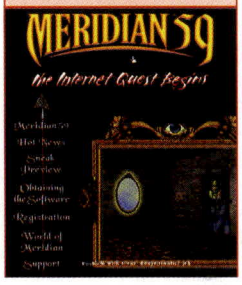
A-Z of cheats for the PC. Nice presentation and a guide at the top of the screen will take you directly to the letter of your choice. Updated frequently.

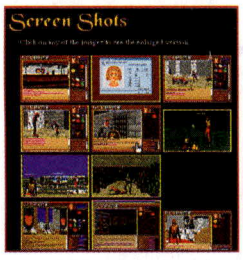
Address: http://happypuppy.com/games/faqcht/index.html
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Net Games

Put your Cluedo to one side and hook up your computer, as we look at the hot new Net games.

The latest stage in online gaming is here.





Meridian 59

Meridian 59 is the latest move in online gaming and has been getting quite a bit of press coverage recently. Users are able to either buy the software via their local computer store or download it through the FTP site provided by 3DO who have created the game. Incidentally, 3DO have pushed their other projects to one side and are focusing on the Internet side of things, which is good news for budding games players. The site explains what the game is all about, how it's played and even offers a sneak preview, complete with downloadable sound and video files. The site is very slick and you don't even have to buy the game to get a feel of what it's like. I can tell you now, if you're interested in wandering through virtual worlds, talking with or battling against other people then this is the perfect Net game to go for. I've played it and it's great. Meanwhile though, check out the site and see what you think. If you do decide to take the plunge – remember you have to pay a subscription fee – I might just see you in Cyberspace.

Address: http://meridian.3do.com/meridian/

Rating: @@@@◇

A well designed home for Net games.

Entertainment Online

If you're not into Net gaming you've probably failed to notice Entertainment Online, better known as *E-On*. They have only recently established themselves and with a high profile presence at most computer shows they are looking to heavily promote their online entertainment channel. If you want to get involved with downloading multi-player Internet games, it's now a good idea to register with *E-On*. As you can imagine from the build-up, their site is cleverly designed, it's very current and quick to download. Areas are easy to locate and there is plenty of information for new users – a special area has been set up to answer your questions.

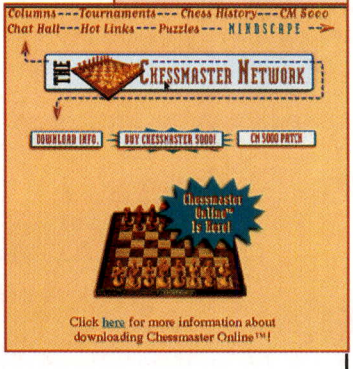
The multi-player games on offer include chess, checkers or, if you're into a bit of betting, there's even a Virtual Casino offering games of Poker and Blackjack. True, this is hardly as exciting as a blood and guts game of *Quake*, but the Entertainment Online site is continuously developing. Whatever your gaming preferences it's definitely worth bookmarking this address for future reference.

Address: http://www.e-on.com/

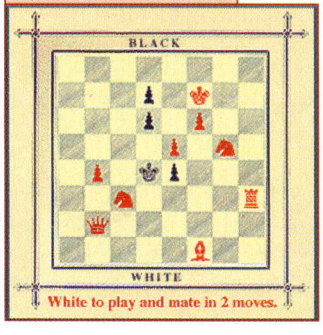
Rating: @@@◇◇

Chessmaster Network

Pit your wits against other chess masters!


THE CHESSMASTER NETWORK
DOWNLOAD INFO.
BUY CHESSMASTER 5000!
CH 5000 PATCH
Chessmaster Online™ Is Here!
Click here for more information about downloading Chessmaster Online™!

It's time to move in for the kill.

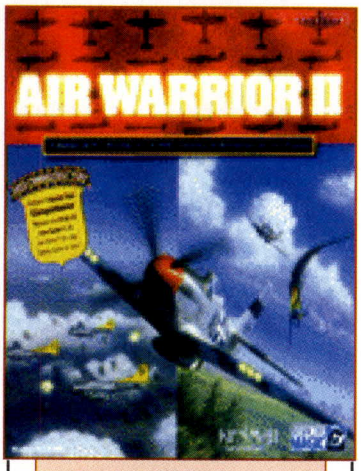


Chess is the ultimate in tactical and psychological gameplay, which is why it has captivated players for thousands of years – similar games were even played by the ancient Egyptians. The *Chessmaster Network* is about to change the way we play the game, allowing budding masters all over the world to do battle on the Web. Like *Meridian* you first purchase the game from your high street store and then go online to play it. Alternatively you can get a taster of the game by going to the download area and obtaining a demo. Once you've done that you can sample the possibilities when playing the full version without having to dig deep into your pockets. *Chessmaster* is very easy to navigate around and this is mainly due to the excellent way the whole site is presented. Not only are there loads of pictures and information on how to download and play the game, but there are also pages and pages of historical data for those interested in the history of the game. A site that's guaranteed to please enthusiasts.

Address: http://www.chessmaster.com/

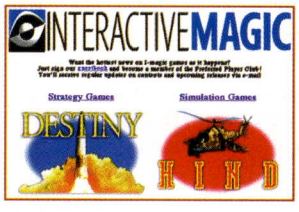
Rating: @@@@◇

Interactive Magic



One of the Net games on offer from Interactive Magic.

Apart from getting involved with multi-player Internet games, Interactive Magic are well know for quite a few other 'normal' PC releases. Their latest title is a strategy sim called *Destiny*. To discover what they have to offer over the Web the best game to check out is *Air Warrior 2*, which is a flight simulation spanning three eras – World Wars One and Two and the Korean War. It's multi-player and AOL have been forced to set up seven servers to cope with the traffic that it's generating. As far as sites go, Interactive Magic's could be a lot faster, although the main



reason for the slow-down isn't their server but the images that are located on the many pages. All in all this site's not the ideal start for people wanting to play multiplayer Net games. The company are new to this area and inevitably there are a few teething problems at the moment. However, if you're interested in finding out more about non-Net related PC titles, this is the site to visit.

Address: http://www.imagicgames.com

Rating: @@@◇◇

Castle Infinity

This spanking new multiplayer game certainly took me by surprise. I came across it by chance and was pleasantly shocked at the quality of it. To be honest it had all the hallmarks of a tacky site, but the opposite was true. To play the full game you first have to buy the CD-ROM, which can be done online. Like most of these games there is also a preview demo you can download.

Once you enter the site it explains in detail what the game is all about. In essence it's geared towards kids, but don't let that put you older folk off, and lets you team up with other users from around the world. The game transports you to an unknown land where Dinosaurs escaped 65 million years ago. It's a great premise for a game and the site also contains of information on the scenario, competitions and information on how to register as a player – well worth a visit.

Address: http://www.castleinfinity.com/

Rating: @@@@@

Discover the game's secrets before you play

Welcome to a land that is populated by very unusual dinosaurs.

Games through your browser

Connect Four

Yes! Don't you just love Connect Four? Sadly this game is pathetic with awful graphics and painfully slow download time. Worth playing to get on the high score table though.

Address: http://csugrad.cs.vt.edu/htbin/Connect4.perl

Rating: ◆◇◇◇◇

Peg Game

Yet another sad reloading game that fails to amuse. A complete lack of instructions soon generates totally unacceptable levels of frustration.

Address: http://www.bu.edu/htbin/pegs

Rating: ◆◇◇◇◇

WebMineSweeper

Select the size of your minefield and then you're away. A fun game that needs a PC. Surely it would be better to simply load the game from your hard drive? Oh well, fun all the same.

Address: http://info.gte.com/gtel/fun/mines/mines.html

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Ferret Frenzy!

Right up the trouser leg! Put down your money, select the ferret and then let the little tike do the rest. A self reloading page that's extremely funny – worth a bash.

Address: http://www.delphi.co.uk/delphi/interactive/ferrets/intro.html

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

The Mystery Critter Crunch Adventure

Great page for kids. Very well presented and it's all in aid of endangered animals. Find the animal and win prizes. Also includes info on the World Wildlife Fund.

Address: http://www.post-mystery.com/

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Build-a-Monster

Do just as the title says – select different body parts to create the ultimate monster. A great site for young Net users as it's colourful and thoughtfully presented, without resorting to violent images.

Address: http://www.rahul.net/renoir/monster/

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

MasterWeb

Apparently this game has been around for hundreds of years. Quite confusing at first but read through the instructions a couple of times and I'm sure you'll get the gist of it. A very basic site.

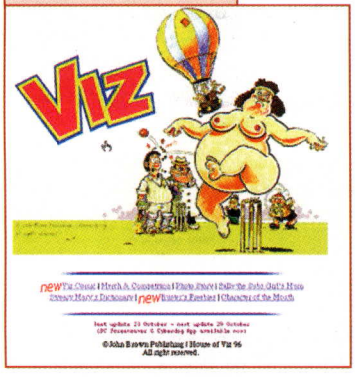
Address: http://imagiware.com/masterweb.cgi

Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

The Dandy and Beano may be old news for some people, but comics on the World Wide Web are far from dated. The big question is, how good are these virtual cartoons?

Viz

"Nyaah ha! He's about to lose his middle wicket!"



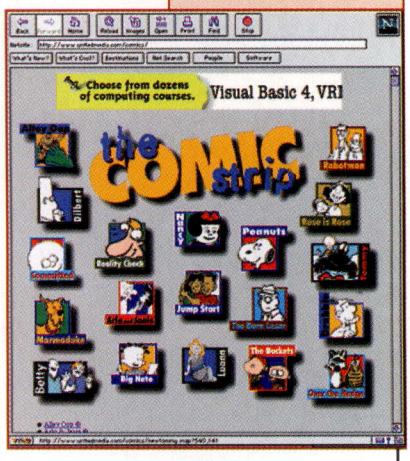
If you haven't heard of *Viz* before, or more importantly Buster Gonad, The Fat Slags or Roger Mellie the Man on the Telly, where have you been all these years? It's hilarious and every household should have a copy of the comic – go and get the Christmas annual now! Internet users can get an electronic version of the adult comic and I can tell you now, it's worth every second of download time. Before you even enter, make sure that your browser (preferably version 3.0 of either Explorer of Navigator) is set to load images, because much of the site is picture based, with many pages having scanned strips on them. The sizes range from 150k to 200k. It's not all strips though. Enter Buster's Freebies area and you'll be invited to download either a Billy the Fish Screensaver (PC), Viz Notepad for Cyberdog or a Fat Slags Screensaver (Mac). The site is surprisingly quick to load and is updated quite frequently. There are even some competitions to win top *Viz* goodies, such as t-shirts. How about a fat slag on your chest?

"Pet, you don't sweat much for a fat lass."

Address:
http://www.viz.co.uk
Rating: @ @ @ @ @

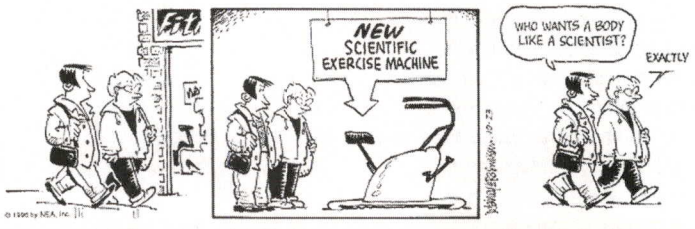
The Comic Strip

Find all your favourite characters here.

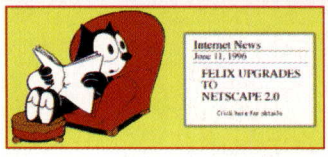


A massive total of 19 comic strip characters can be located at *The Comic Strip* and, if you're really interested, here they are; Alley Oop, Dilbert, Committed, Marmaduke, Betty, Reality Check, Arlo and Janis, Big Nate, Nancy, Jump Start, Luann, Peanuts, The Born Loser, The Buckets, Robotman, Rose is Rose, Tommy, Drabble and Over the Hedge. Either click on the image map to select one or alternatively use the links below them. Even though the site looks very nice and there seems to be a lot here, once you finally download the pages, there isn't a great deal of substance, just a couple of links leading off to recent strips. This isn't really a page to come to if you're looking for the above characters specifically, instead *The Comic Strip* would suit those looking for general information, plus want to check out the strips dating back two weeks.

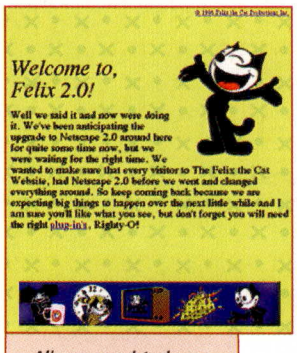
Address: http://www.unitedmedia.com/comics/
Rating: @ @ @



Felix the Cat Home Page



Did you know that Felix began his own comic strip back in 1923. Now he's appearing in his own books and even has his own television programme. He's even up with current technology and here at his home page much can be found out about the black moggy. A timeline will take you though the years of Felix's appearances and a store lists all the merchandise that's available to interested punters. Some of the sections have been rushed, and you'll notice this when images overlap text, leaving it looking rather stupid. There is however a useful link panel on every page that allows users to jump to the three main sections; Store, History, TV and Magic Bag. Some nice cute cut outs are located around the site, which kids are bound to want on their desktop, but sadly there are no downloads. This is worth bookmarking though, as the site is soon to be upgraded to make use of the latest plug-ins.

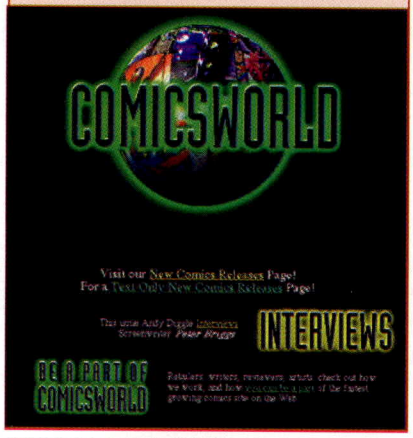

Welcome to, Felix 2.0!
Well we said it and now were doing it. We've been anticipating the upgrade to Netscape 2.0 around here for quite some time now, but we were waiting for the right time. We wanted to make sure that every visitor to The Felix the Cat Website, had Netscape 2.0 before we went and changed everything around. So keep coming back because we are expecting big things to happen over the next little while and I am sure you'll like what you see, but don't forget you will need the right plug-in's. Rigsty-O!

All you need to know about the famous cat.

Address:
http://www.felixthecat.com/index.html
Rating: @ @ @

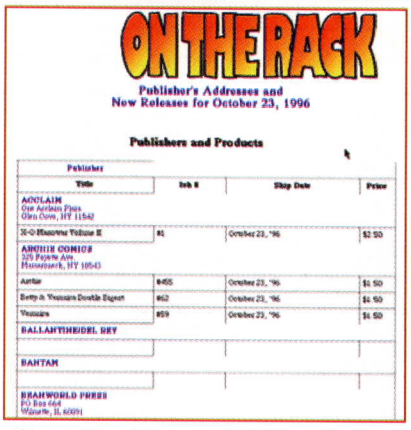
Comics World

Drawing heavily the X-Files this is the online magazine for comic enthusiasts.


COMICSWORLD
Visit our New Comics Releases Page!
For a Text Only New Comics Releases Page!
INTERVIEWS
BE A PART OF COMICSWORLD

As with every subject on the Net, from swimming to sewing, there is always an accompanying online magazine. This is one of a wide range of comic related magazines and if you take a close look at the design, you'll probably agree that it has drawn its inspiration from the *X-Files*. When I visited the site, three of the main links stood out; New Comic Releases, Interview and Be a Part of ComicsWorld. The Interview area is pretty good, with plenty of information on offer. These text heavy pages are a bonus for those with 14.4 modems, although the rest of us could do with a few accompanying pictures.

New Comic Releases is a detailed, up-to-the-minute guide to the month's top strips. It also lists the comic publisher, issue and street date. Not bad at all.



Address:
http://www.farrsite.com/cw/index.html
Rating: @@@◇◇

Manga UK

The home of Japanese anime on the Net.

Be it *Akira* or *Godzilla*, Manga is not just famous over in Japan, it's also massive over here and that's why they have opted to set up the site in the UK. They've dumped their old one and created a whole new set of pages for followers of the craze. Emphasis has been put on making the site as user friendly as possible and simple logos have been added to enforce this. You'll be able to gain information on latest releases, talk to others fans through a chat system, download selected video clips and to top it off with a cherry, visitors are given the chance to enter competitions. Instead of going into a shop and buying Manga goodies, if you think its safe enough then you're able to purchase them via the site. It has to be said that some work could be put into the design, but I'm sure that true Manga fans will let that pass.

Address: **http://www.manga.co.uk**
Rating: @@@@◇

Super Heroes

Superman Homepage

Our hero! Not only does this site look at Superman in comics but also outside of them. There are frames, but you can send them to Krypton if you like.

Address: **http://web.syr.edu/~ajgould/superman.html**
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Gotham Gazette

If you're a massive fan of the caped crusader, the rubbish design won't matter to you too much. This home page includes reviews of current comics as well as an art gallery and information on which *Batman* comics are generating the most interest.

Address: **http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/ajporter/gotham.htm**
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Sy's Original Spiderman Comic Book Art Gallery!

If you like animated Spideys, pictures and sounds playing in the background of your browser, plus quite a bit of comic information then swing to this URL now! Be prepared to wait for a while as everything loads though.

Address: **http://www.primenet.com/~webhead/**
Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

The Star-Spangles Site 2.0

Incorporating frames, this *Captain America* site is very big. There's a large directory of images and plenty of editorial. An online store will also give you information on videos and books.

Address:
http://www.sigma.net/capt_am/index.htm
Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

The Hulk's Dedication Page

He's big, ugly and the colour of peas. It's the *Incredible Hulk*. This single page includes a few facts about the green hulkster (not the sad WWF wrestler by the way) plus some nice images. Not worth screaming over.

Address: **http://www.angelfire.com/pg9/COOLPAGE/HULKSTER.html**
Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

Iron Man

What sad pathetic loser has put this site together? It's awful, the main picture is too big, the background picture looks like an image created by one of those kaleidoscope things and neither of the three links work.

Address:
http://www.dtcc.edu/~s8581/iron.html
Rating: ◆◇◇◇◇

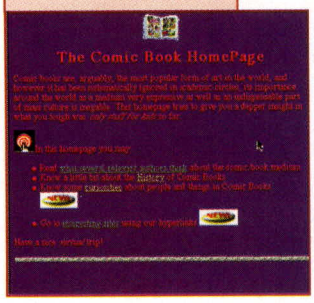
X-Men Bios

Rather pathetic presentation, nice images but rubbish profiles on each of the famous X-Men. Could do with a face lift. I'm sure one of the heroes will sort that out!

Address:
http://www.geocities.com/Area51/2871/bios.html
Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

The Comic Book Home Page

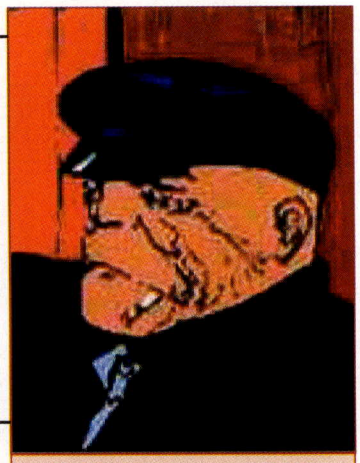
An analytical look at the nature of comics.



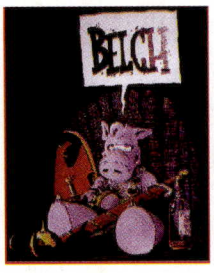
Instead of looking mostly at individual comic books, the author of the site has decided to gear its pages towards the history of them and how authors feel about the medium. I didn't really have to look at the URL to tell that the site was housed with geocties (they all look the same) and in my view, it would of been better to leave out the animated GIFs (and bright purple background) than have them ruining the site. They're scattered around everywhere and don't really do the site many favours. The information provided is quite interesting and not like your typical comic site with hundreds of pictures lying around randomly. Of course, a geocities site wouldn't be the same without links and you'll find those here as well.

Address: http://www.geocities.com/SoHo/5537/

Rating: @@◇◇◇



This site also takes you on a trip down comic book memory lane.



Dark Horse Comics

A good looking site with plenty of images.

If you didn't know then Dark Horse Comics Inc have been a comic book publisher for 10 years now. Over that period of time the company have produced such publications as *Paul Chadwick's Concrete*, *The American*, *The Mask*, *Aliens* and *Black Cross*. More information on the company can be located at their site or if you want to get down to the nitty gritty and find the comics, what can you expect? Well, for starters, don't go here with the idea stuck in your head that you're going to be able to read whole books, because it just isn't going to happen. You will however be able to read up on forthcoming titles and get a few nice sci-fi pictures for your collection. A help desk will answer some of your questions and also includes a complete list of back issues if you happen to have missed one. Overall, nice look, quite a few images and plenty of information. Not the place to come for fully blown online comics though. Then again, can you really expect that from a massive company like this?

Address: http://www.dhorse.com/

Rating: @@@@◇

The Comic Collector's Guild

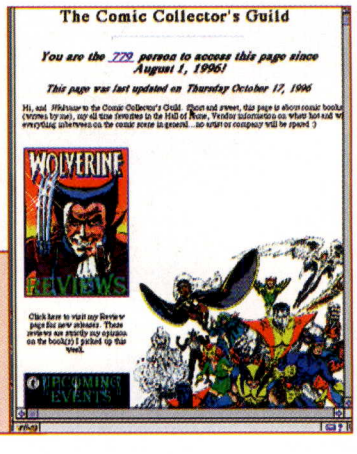
Bad quality images ahoy! That's the first thing that I noticed about this site, but what's the rest like? Well, actually not too bad as it goes. Click on the picture of Wolverine and you're taken swiftly to a reviews area that's pretty big and updated every month with the latest releases. Even though they're slightly tacky now, tables have been used to hold the release information and a scan of the selected comic. Roughly 200 words are written about each and then the author gives them a rating, not bad. Even animated GIFS have been put to good use, with different pages of the same publication alternating. The writer has also decided to include his personal hall of fame with selected comics which are "must haves for anyone's collection".

Despite the bad quality images, regular updates are made, the design isn't too bad and, most of all, there is plenty of information for enthusiasts. That can't be bad.

Address: http://www.cam.org/~johncon/

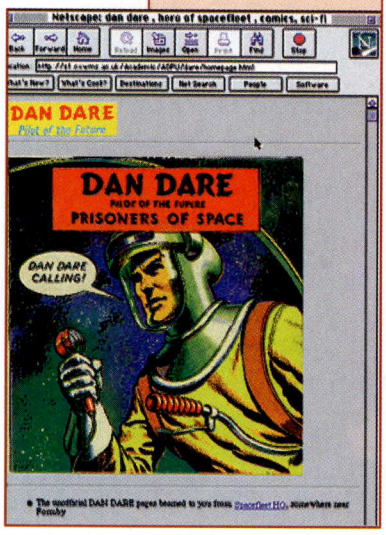
Rating: @@@◇◇

Despite some poor quality images this is a good site to visit.

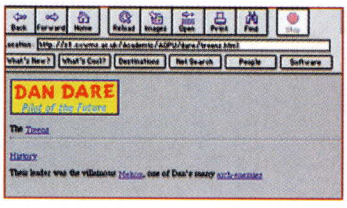


Dan Dare

Not as good as some of the other sites.



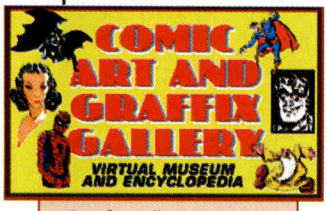
Most comic characters on the Web always seem to be American, so when I stumbled across this Dan Dare site, I was hoping that the Brit who put the page together had done a good job. Sadly my hopes drained away within seconds of loading up the site. Yeah, a nice image of Dan was there, but it took ages to finally finish loading and hardly any links were offered to other areas. The ones that were here go onto other boring pages with images that are too big and of a poor quality. Fans of the comic character will no doubt be upset as there are no downloads or stories of Dan's exploits. The overall presentation was something I would expect from a first time Net programmer. I don't know what else to say really. I suppose, try a search engine for another one.



Address: http://s1.cxwms.ac.uk/Academic/AGPU/dare/homepage.html

Rating: @◇◇◇◇

Comic Art & Graffix Gallery



One for collectors to take a look at.

All kinds of different bits of comic art are shown off here at this virtual museum and encyclopedia. There is just the right mix of images and text looking at subjects such as the history of art in America and collecting. The artist biographies area has a nice collection of creator information and they range from Wayne Boring (*Superman* - he wasn't boring was he?) and the ever popular Charles Schulz, who we all thank for bringing *Peanuts* to our comics and TV screens. Quite a bit of text can be read on these pages, but there are also a fair share of images and animated GIFs to keep the kids amused too. The author has also set up a page to advertise some art that he wants to get rid of. Of course other related pages are listed in links page. His worked has paid off in a way and he's been awarded three stars by Magellan.

Address: http://www.comic-art.com/

Rating: @@@@◇

Newspaper Strip Characters

The Dilbert Zone

The now defunct *Today* newspaper gave *Dilbert* a home and this site is packed with some great stuff, from icons to character descriptions. Loads of pictures too.

Address: http://www.unitedmedia.com/comics/dilbert/

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Rob Thacker's Calvin and Hobbes Page

They're massive and have been in the Daily Express for years. This fan page includes some great quality images, although they'll take ages to load if you've got a slow collection. Could be better.

Address: http://fermi.phys.ualberta.ca/~thacker/cal.html

Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

Garfield Online

Very colourful site that both kids and grown-ups will adore. Each area is explained and they vary from game rooms to comic strip and news areas.

Address: http://www.garfield.com/

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Peanut's Collectors Club Home Page

Hardy visually impressive, but this *Peanuts* site does have some cute images that fans of both the series and cartoon strip will love no end. More text than pictures though.

Address: http://www.dcn.davis.ca.us/~bang/peanuts/

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Andy Capp

I expected just a little more than what smacked me in the face here. There's just one strip, comprising of five boxes and that's it. Very sad indeed. Poor old Andy.

Address: http://www.obd.nl/~marcel/andycapp.htm

Rating: ◆◇◇◇◇

Laura's Warm Puppy Page! Horray!

A very bright page dedicated to the lovable character Snoopy. Areas include Diary, News, Charity, Events and Prod UCTS? Quite a lot of information.

Address: http://www.eden.com/~snoopy/

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

The Born Loser

Are you a born loser, if so then you'll love this sad page which offers a two week archive of comic strips and a few other links. Not really worth looking at, no matter how much the strips will make you laugh. Boring.

Address: http://www.unitedmedia.com/comics/bornloser/

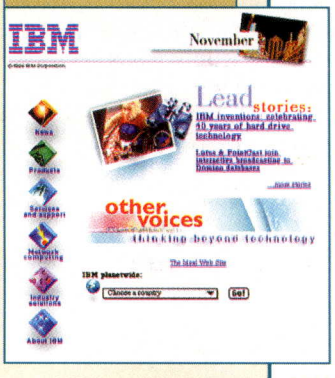
Rating: ◆◇◇◇◇

The Essential

OK, so you've probably checked out some of the sites featured in the magazine, but it's here that you'll find information on the major players on the Web. Rather than listing loads of different quality sites, this area concentrates on the ones that should be in your bookmarks (or favourites) collection. We have divided the big, and most of the time, official, home pages into various categories. Don't worry, we'll check sites every month to make sure that they're up still and running. If you feel that your site should be featured in the directory then email simonl@enterprise.net.

Computing

The IBM site is a PC owner's heaven.



Apple Home Page http://www.apple.com
A very well presented site that includes loads of press releases.

IBM http://www.ibm.com/
This is obviously any PC owner's heaven. Very well presented with loads and loads of top information on latest developments etc.

Microsoft http://www.microsoft.com
Slick site with news, downloads and general PC banter.

Psion Dacom http://www.psiondacom.com/
Press releases, contact numbers and Psion product information can funnily enough be located at their site.

Netscape http://www.home.netscape.com
Yes it's the big broswer giant. Come here for latest versions and additional plug-ins.

Film & Music

A massive site for Hollywood buffs.

Hollywood Online http://www.hollywood.com
Wow! Totally massive with bucket loads of film information. Downloadable trailers, sounds, games and more!

Virgin Records http://www.virginrecords.com
As you can imagine, this is one big site with information on Virgin artists.

MovieWeb http://www.movieweb.com
If you're interested in the latest releases and want sneak peeks at forthcoming films then this is the place to be.

World Wide Music http://www.worldwidemusic.com
Use a search to find an artist, you can then listen to clip-its from their albums. Great site!

Sony http://www.sony.com/
Features material on films, music and their Sony Playstation.

Sport

CarlingNet http://www.carling-net.com
All soccer results can be found here, as well as news and competitions.

Sky Sports http://www.sky.co.uk/sports
As you can imagine, loads of sport coverage! Sports central for the UK.

William Hill http://www.williamhill.co.uk
If you're in for a spot of gambling then use this great site to gain the latest betting odds. Very well presented.

SoccerNet http://www.soccernet
Another one for raving footy supporters. Loads of premiership teams covered. Results and more.

Welcome to the home of English football.

Directory

Television & Radio

BBC **http://www.bbc.co.uk**
Looks at quite a few of the BBC's shows and also features programme guides. Includes a great *Tomorrow's World* page.

Sky Television **http://www.sky.co.uk**
A very big page that mainly concentrates on Sport. They even house the official Manchester United site, for all those Reds fans.

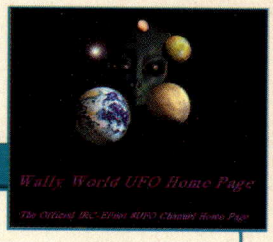
Channel 4 **http://www.channel4.co.uk**
Information on everything from Brookside to Countdown! Tick tick...

NBC **http://www.nbc.com**
The massive American TV company have many shows on their Web site.

Radio 1 FM **http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio1**
Nice shockwave effects used on the site. Show listings and all your favourite presenters here.

pages from untie.

Paranormal



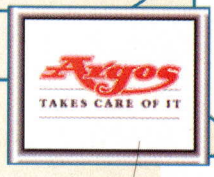
Bufora Online **http://www.bufora.org.uk/**
Great site by the British UFO Research Association. Pay to become a fully fledged member.

Wally World UFO Home Page **http://www.nol.net/%7Ewguimb/**
Aliens would adore this sight. Everything from crop circles to UFO pictures, stories and more.

Crop Circles **http://mmm.simplenet.com/frames/crop_circles/cropcircles.html**
Just like the title says, there are crop circles here... Lots of 'em.

National UFO Reporting Centre **http://www.nwlink.com/~ufocntr/**
Spotted a UFO? If so you'd better tell these people fast.

Shopping



iMS **http://www.musicshop.com**
Buying CDs online couldn't be easier. Thousands of titles plus they're now also selling videos. Regular prices (inc postage).

Argos **http://www.argos.co.uk**
Argos will take care of all your shopping needs with their online store.

The UK Shopping Centre **http://www.ukshops.co.uk:8000/**
Clothes, CD-Roms it's all here ready for you to buy.

Marks & Spencer **http://www.marks-and-spencer.co.uk**
The clothes shop that we've all come to love (and hate). It's Marks and Sparks!

Boots **http://www.boots.co.uk**
Great looking site with loads of useful health information and advice.

Go online banking.

Banking & Finance

Midland **http://www.midlandbank.com/**
If you bank with the Listening Bank then it might be worth checking out this site for all the latest news and information.

Barclays **http://www.itl.net/barclaysquare/**
Take a trip around Barclays Square – it's just like being at your local branch.

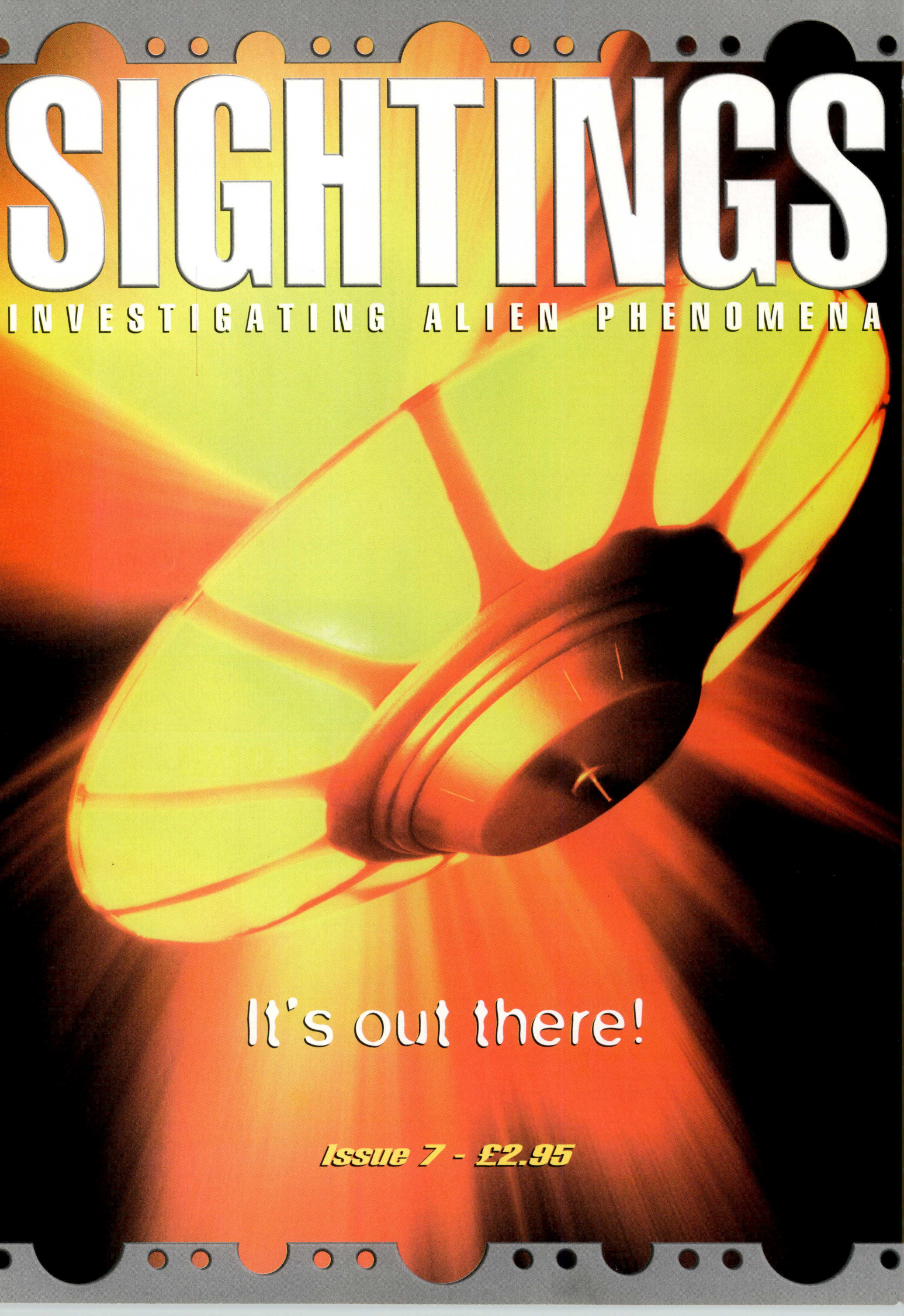
Norwich Union **http://www.norwich-union.co.uk**
Nice colourful page with Shockwave and of course, company information.

Birmingham Midshires **http://www.birmingham-midshires.co.uk/bmbs**
Useful information for customers with the building society.

The Co-operative Bank **http://www.co-operativebank.co.uk**
You won't be able to access any personal information, but there is still plenty of useful stuff here.

SIGHTINGS

INVESTIGATING ALIEN PHENOMENA



It's out there!

Issue 7 - £2.95

Reviews

The Internet Solution pack is analysed on page 109.

Welcome to our first look at what's on offer at the moment for the Net junkie. Where applicable items are given a rating out of five, with one meaning very poor and five obviously indicating excellence!

Check out the Connetix QuickCam on page 108.

This Month

Need a high energy buzz? Try these drinks.

Book Reviews 102

We put six newly published Internet tomes through their paces and ask Sean Clark to deliver his stern judgement upon them...

Modem Reviews 104

A selection of the latest 33.6 modems go under the microscope, which one will emerge victorious?

Modem Competition 106

Have you been looking to upgrade your current modem for a faster, more efficient model? Now's your chance to win one!

CyberEssentials 108

We take a look at a selection of items that could have the potential to liven up your Internet experience...

CyberEssentials Competition 111

You've read all about them and now you can get your hands on them in our great giveaway competition.

The Search for Killer Content 112

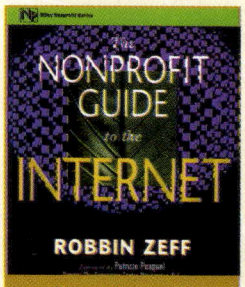
In the first of his regular columns Sean Clark analyses the standards being set by Web authors at the moment.

On the Superhighway with Zion Train 116

We bring a band who make full use of the Internet into the spotlight and ask what it's all about?

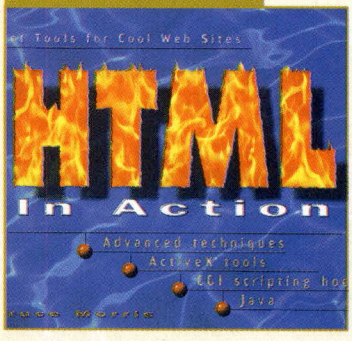
Sale of the Century 119

Our second opinion column, written by Gareth Lancaster, takes a critical look at the quality of advertising on the Net.



Is the advice on offer useful? See page 102.

Find out if this book will improve your Web page.



Test drive a 33.6 modem on page 104

Music meets the Net on page 116.

If you have a product you would like to see reviewed in any of our sections, send it to TOTAL INTERNET, Rapide Publishing, 14a Union Street, Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ12 2JS. Alternatively call 01626 68611 or fax 01626 51484 for more details, or email cmarke@enterprise.net.

Books

In the first of our book reviews Sean Clark evaluates six of the latest Internet guides to hit the shelves...

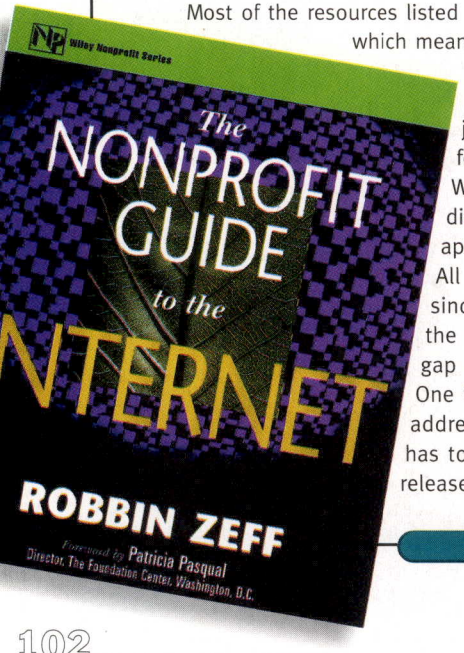
The Nonprofit Guide to the Internet

Author: Robbin Zeff
Publisher: John Wiley and Sons
Cost: £27.50

It comes as quite a shock to find a book entitled *The Nonprofit Guide to the Net*. After all, most books these days seem hellbent on showing you how to make profits via your online activities! True, this book isn't actually so much about not making money through the Internet, but rather how non-profit organisations, such as charities and other associations, can use the Net to co-ordinate campaigns, raise funds and generally improve the efficiency of their operations.

More specifically, it aims to show non-profit groups how to go about getting online – hardware, software, Web space etc. – how to let people know that they have done so and, most importantly, how to address the legal issues relating to maintaining a Net presence. The level of detail is appropriate – deep enough to achieve its goal, but not so 'techie' as to put off the general reader - and it's clearly written by someone who understands the field. However, there is one big problem with the book - namely its overwhelming US bias.

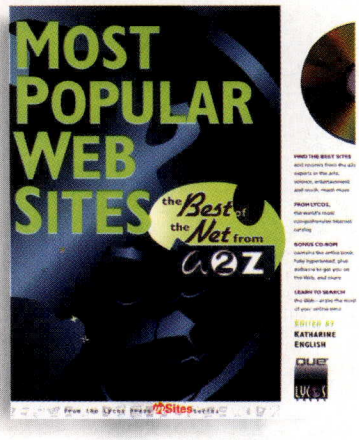
The majority of the content is fairly international but the US origins of *The Non-profit Guide* really cause a problem when it comes to the resource and law sections. Most of the resources listed are based in the US, which means that they are at best not as-useful-as-they-could-be and at worse just plain useless. As for the legal sections? Well, most of the laws discussed simply are not appropriate to the UK. All of this is a great pity since in other respects the book fills an important gap in the book market. One final comment, addressed to the publisher, has to be – come on Wiley, release a UK version!



Rating: 3

The Most Popular Web Sites

Editor: Katharine English
Publisher: QUE/Lycos Press
Cost: £37.50



When this book arrived in the post the tree outside the office window screamed! At over 1200 pages, it's a monster of a book and a sad reflection on the state of publishing these days.

Basically *The Most Popular Web Sites* is an annotated print out of the Lycos a2z search engine, with a few pictures thrown in for good measure. Yes, it has thousands of entries, yes, paper is easier to read than computer screens and yes, it's slightly more portable than your desktop PC. But even after acknowledging these positive considerations, I still have to question the wisdom of printing a book like this. Surely it would be better to simply issue it on a CD-ROM (one is included anyway) or direct people to the online version? It would certainly make the tree outside the window much happier and, what's more, the directory could be updated far more easily (an entry for one of my Web sites was very out of date - the URL changed about 12 months ago!). Alternatively, just keep buying TOTAL INTERNET and using our listings section, it would certainly be a lot cheaper.

Now, paper has it's place, but I don't think large printed Web directories of this kind are it. Still, if you have to buy a paper directory, I guess, with its strong pedigree – Lycos is a great search engine – this book would be the one to buy.

Rating: 2

Intranet Business Strategies

Author: Mellanie Hills
Publisher: John Wiley and Sons
Cost: £22.50

In parallel with the very public Internet revolution there has been a private, but just as important, Intranet revolution taking place. Intranets, simply speaking, are internal Internets intended for use purely by a company or organisation. They can dramatically improve the way a large business operates and can also act as a stepping stone for companies wishing to expand into online activities.

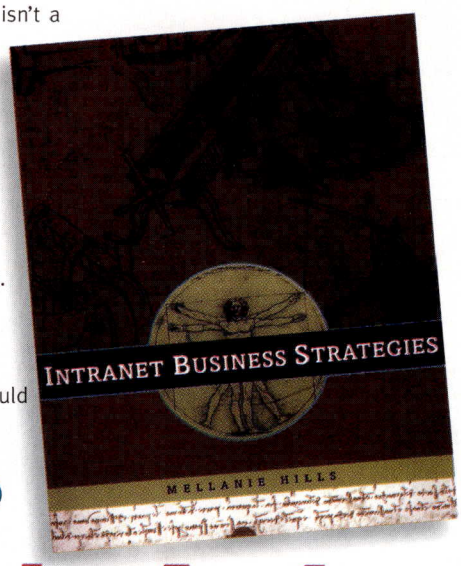
This book explains the concept of the Intranet in detail and looks at how a number of real organisations are using them. Much of the content will be familiar to anybody with an understanding of the Internet, yet there is still plenty of additional information to warrant its purchase. In particular, I found the case study section very useful.

When representatives of companies such as Silicon Graphics say things like, "the Intranet provides the foundation for Information Age companies", you can't afford not to take notice!

As with the previous Wiley title, this book has a strong US bias. However, in this case it isn't a problem since most of the issues dealt with are genuinely international.

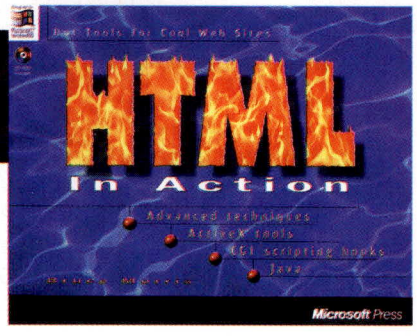
In conclusion, if you are a manager wanting to swat up on the Intranet concept then this is the book for you. Likewise, technical people looking to formulate an Intranet implementation plan could do worse than start by buying this book.

Rating: 4



HTML in Action

Author: **Bruce Morris**
Publisher: **Microsoft Press**
Cost: **£27.99**



Cynics might wonder if any book on HTML that was published by Microsoft Press could really be more than just a propaganda exercise for the Microsoft Internet Explorer takeover of the Internet! Well yes, this book is rather oriented towards Microsoft's own Internet tools and technologies, but it shouldn't be dismissed as simply 'towing the party line'.

The content is actually pretty general, most of it applying to non-Microsoft Web browsers as much as Microsoft's own, and Netscape Navigator even manages to get a fair few mentions. The book's chapters include Cool Basic HTML Techniques, Forms, Tables, Graphics, Multimedia and many more. There are plenty of browser screenshots and HTML examples, and useful Tips and Cautions appear throughout in the margins.

The only section that is purely Microsoft based is the chapter on ActiveX, Microsoft's own Java-esque/ multimedia extension to Explorer. Like it or not, this technology is going to become an important part of the Web designer's armoury, so it's worth knowing about if you aren't familiar with it already.

As a general book on good practice in HTML programming this is a strong title and the Microsoft connection doesn't distract from this. Those who are designing primarily for Microsoft browsers (which might be all of us fairly soon!) will find the Internet Explorer screenshots and examples a bonus. Although at £27.99 it ain't cheap.

Rating: 4

Hybrid HTML Design

Author: **Kevin Ready and Janine Warner**
Publisher: **New Riders**
Cost: **£32.99**

Now this is a book I like! *Hybrid HTML Design* is intended as a reference book for people who want to ensure that their Web sites work on all Web browsers and not just the latest or most fully-featured ones. This approach - something I call 'Designing for Compatibility' - is so important, yet browser independence is often overlooked by designers.

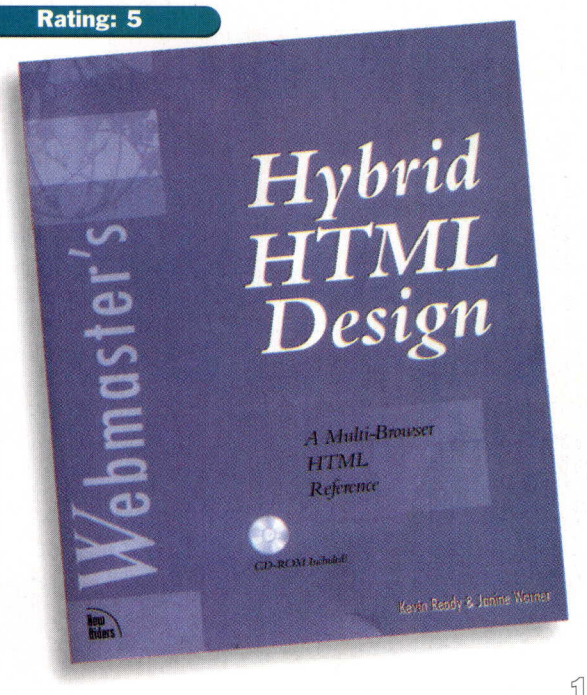
The book looks at the variety of browsers available on the market and includes colour screenshots; introduces the HTML standards that have been defined and then approaches the subject of browser specific and browser independent design in detail.

There is a lot of 'acquired knowledge' in here – the sort of stuff that you normally only get after years of HTML design experience. This will be of particular use to Web designers who are reasonably new to the subject or are using high-level HTML authoring packages such as Adobe PageMill and Claris Home Page. These designers, who may be unaware of a world beyond Netscape Navigator or Internet Explorer, may be a little surprised at some of the limitations of older, but still in use, Web browsers.

As with all design books, there are things I personally don't agree with. For example, I think exploiting the scrolling title and fading background bugs in some versions of Netscape Navigator is a definite no no, but the authors of this book suggest that you use them if you like the effects. Really this is a trivial gripe and in practice this book would be a useful addition to any Web designer's library.

If you read it and act on the authors' advice then I'm sure that you will end up producing better Web pages as a result. Give it a go.

Rating: 5



Modems

Christmas is just around the corner and, with so many people wanting to get online, we thought it would be the ideal time to check out the latest modems on the market. We put four new 33.6's to the TOTAL INTERNET test.

Surfer 33.6

Company: Psion Dacom
Contact: 01908 261686
Cost: £179
Web Site: http://www.psiondacom.com

The opinion in the TOTAL INTERNET office has been mixed about Psion's latest modem package. The controversy is not about the piece of kit itself, instead it was directed at the freebie in the box, which was, strangely enough, a wet suit (you can buy an additional different coloured one for £9.99 if you like) that covers the hardware.

Like any other modem, the Surfer comes packed with a power supply and all the relevant leads to hook you up. However it has one major downfall – it can't connect to a Macintosh. The surfer is hard-wired so there is no serial port on the back and the wire goes directly inside the modem, hence it cannot support the Mac. Additionally, without a removable serial cable connection, you're stumped if the wire is damaged.

As far as installing the surfer goes, we did encounter some troubles at first, but the manual helped with a good troubleshooting guide. The data rate is obviously set at 33.600bps and if you're faxing then it's standard rate at

"Loading image heavy pages created some difficulties for the Surfer"

14.400bps. When it comes to the software, you get a 30 day UUNet Pipex trial and introductory CompuServe and America Online (AOL) membership, which most companies seem to be doing now, so don't base your purchase on this. In our tests Psion's new baby didn't perform nearly as well as the others and loading image heavy pages created some difficulties for the Surfer. A difference in performance will be noticed if you've just jumped across from a 28.8, but our tests left it at the back of the group. Even so, it does have a nice compact design

Setup 4/5
Speed 2/5
Value 3/5

Overall **3/5**

Sportster 33.6 Faxmodem

Company: US Robotics
Contact: 0800 225252
Cost: £199
Web Site: http://www.usr.com

We had some problems with detecting US Robotics' latest offering, as Windows 95 only had 28.8 in its setup list. After a couple of minutes we overcome this problem and the Sportster was ready to go.

Out of all the modems, this one came out top for several reasons, firstly the pack includes everything required to get you online – a mains adaptor, serial cable, very long phone lead and another two you'll get start-up kits with AOL and CompuServe, plus Quicklink if you want to utilise any of the fax or voice options. Other added features include volume control, internal microphone and speaker output.

"You'll fall in love with the nippy download times"

adaptors; for your telephone and one depending on what ports you have on the back of your machine. The instruction manual is extremely helpful for everything except setting up within Windows 95. The two floppies provided are for those with other versions of Windows and users may get easily confused when trying to run the install program.

The Sportster doesn't carry software or assistance for the Macintosh, but, provided you've got the right cable and know your stuff, it will run without any problems. Just like the others you'll fall in love with the nippy download times once online, with massive images reaching your screen quickly. As far as money goes, don't let the extra £25 put you off, the Sportster is well worth the price. A modem that will more than meet your needs.

Setup 4/5
Speed 4/5
Value 5/5

Overall **4/5**

Multitech 33.6

Company: Multitech
Contact: 0118 9597774
Cost: £175
Web Site: http://www.multitech.com/

One feature that has to be noted with Multitech's latest modem is the free velcro pads that allow you to use it as a fashion accessory by sticking it to your head – well we can't see any other use for these unusual freebies.

fact there are only three inputs/outputs on the back, no speaker (it's not a voice) and no room for your telephone.

It has one major pitfall, which has been brought along from the days of 14.4's and 28.8's, namely the noise level. It's deafening and, even though you only get the high level noise when initially logging on, the sound is annoying for both the user and others working within range. Clearly there are a lot of ups and downs, but when it comes to the crunch the Multitech 33.6 is a reliable, small, but noisy fella. One final point of worth, it's also compatible with the Macintosh.

"It's so small that you could fit it in the palm of your hand."

Onto the serious side of things; how does the Multitech compete with the other three modems rated? Well, the price of the Multitech has just dropped from £257 to £175. Downloading from both FTP sites and Web pages with heavy graphical content was reduced considerably in comparison to the the Surfer but not to the same extent when compared to the other two reviewed modems. The size of the Multitech is also quite amazing – it's so small you could fit it in the palm of your hand with ease. The reason it's such a compact piece of hardware is due to the

Setup 4/5
Speed 4/5
Value 5/5

Overall .. **4/5**

Microlin 33.6

Company: Pace
Contact: 01274 532000
Cost: £175
Web Site: http://www.pacecom.com

Pace have been around for a while now and it was inevitable they would be out there against the rest with their latest 33.6. In fact it's not just this modem they've launched recently, there are also two more 33.6 models offering both voice and PCMCIA card options.

The Microlin comes with the usual leads, software and, thankfully for this reviewer, can be easily connected to a Macintosh. It didn't head the pack in terms of speed, but, then again, it didn't really lose out either – the only notable difference was the speed in comparison to the Surfer.

In terms of the price it's competing directly with Multitech's offering and, if you don't mind a modem that takes up a little extra space, it's considerably quieter. It has the usual ports on the back, with an additional input for your telephone, a unique factor in comparison to the other three. As you might have guessed by now, overall the Microlin holds its own in the middle of the road when up against the other modems evaluated.

If you can't afford to spend another £25 for the Sportster, this is a sensible buy. It's quality kit that you'll be more than satisfied with. Installation was a bit of a problem within Windows 95 but we finally managed to get online, where the modem performed everything required of it with style.

Setup 4/5
Speed 3/5
Value 4/5

Overall **3/5**

Total Internet will be conducting these reviews every few issues. If your company has a modem to be put through its paces, write to the normal address or email Simon Lovell at simonl@enterprise.net.

Competition

Upgrade your Modem!

Grab yourself a 33.6 modem in our super, smashing, great giveaway competition!

Fed up with slow download times? Desperate to get a new modem? Well, now is your chance. We've got three of the modems reviewed this issue to giveaway, with a combined value of £635, all in the name of seasonal good cheer of course. Each of these modems is a 33.6 model and, as our reviews reveal, each has its own unique capabilities.

To enter simply check out the reviews of the modems on offer, decide which one you desire and mark its name on your entry. Then solve the question below and send your answers, plus your name and address, on the back of a postcard or on a sealed down envelope to: Modem Competition, Rapide Publishing, 14a Union Street, Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ12 2JS. Alternatively send your entries by email to simonl@enterprise.net with all the relevant information included.

Closing date for entries is 6/1/97.

US Robotics Sportster 33.6

At £199 the US Robotics Sportster certainly lives up to its name, managing to download from the Net with incredible speed and ease.

Psion Surfer 33.6

With its own funky wet suit and a tempting price tag of £179, Psion's surfer is everything you'll need to ride a tube in Cyberspace.

Prizes

- US Robotics Sportster 33.6
- Multitech 33.6
- Psion Surfer 33.6

Multitech 33.6

Compact and neat it may be, but the Multitech 33.6 certainly proves that great things come in little packages. A £175 treat.

Question:

What speed of modem was used prior to the current 33.6 models?

a) 19.4 b) 20.2 c) 28.8

All entries must be by postcard, on the back of a sealed envelope or submitted by email to simonl@enterprise.net. Employees of Rapide Publishing or participating companies are strictly forbidden from entering the competition. All entries must be received by the closing date printed, with only one entry per household. The editor's decision is final.

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"Thanks for such a great service" (O.D)

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INTONET

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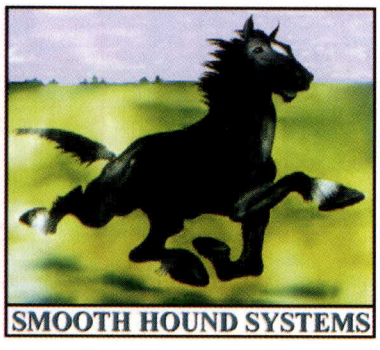


"The massive, well presented database makes this an ideal stopping off point on the Web ."
- Total Internet Nov 1996

http://www.s-h-systems.co.uk/hotel.html

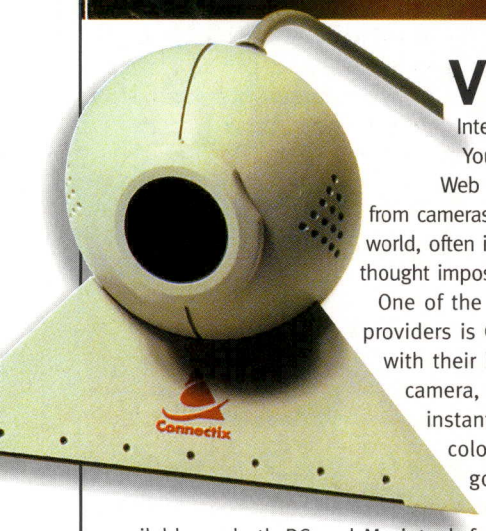
Hotel / Guest House owners contact P.O. Box 343, Cheltenham, GL50 3YX
E-Mail: SmoothHound@Chelsoft.demon.co.uk

CyberEssentials

CyberEssentials is a new concept in Internet entertainment. This is a guide to the high-tech hardware, gadgets and gizmos needed to create the ultimate Internet work station. It may not always be directly associated with the Web, but the items featured are guaranteed to enhance your Net experience...

Eye Spy

CyberEssential: **Color QuickCam**
Company: **Connetix**
Contact: **0171 622 3355**
Cost: **PC & Mac around £199**



Video conferencing is very popular over the Internet at the moment. You'll also find lots of Web pages with images from cameras located all over the world, often in places you'd have thought impossible.

One of the main image providers is Connetix who began with their black and white camera, which became an instant success. The new colour version of the golf ball-like QuickCam is now available on both PC and Macintosh formats. It has an array of additional improvements, such as full manual focusing on the camera itself, it's user friendly and those who aren't that technical will be thankful there's no need to take their computer apart. Simply plug in to your parallel port and the easy installation will connect you.

"The Color QuickCam is the ideal choice for Internet communication"

Even though the speed over the Web needs to be improved, Internet users looking to port AVI movie files onto their pages will have no problem with the software that is provided. There is also additional picture software that allows users to take images and save them out instantly as GIF or JPEG formats, making it easy to improve the look of your Internet site too. If you do eventually get chatting to someone, remember you'll need the correct software, but it really is great fun. The color QuickCam is the ideal choice for Internet communication, producing top quality images. However, expect it to be slower than if you were using a black and white Netcam.

CyberEssential:
Cordless SBC HC100 Headphones
Company: **Philips**
Contact: **0181 665 6350**
Cost: **£44.99**

Infra Music

Don't you find that when using a PC, or any computer for that matter, in most cases the earphone port is located at the back of the machine and you end up having to stick your nose to the monitor in order to listen to your favourite tunes? Philips' latest convenience product is the perfect remedy.

Their cordless headphones are ideal for Web surfers, with the conventional and restrictive lead taken away and substituted with infra-red. They are also a bonus when you've finished downloading your favourite sound files from the Web, be it a MOD or sound track from a popular film.

When you've been surfing the Net for hours, you need to stretch your legs and it's all to easy to jump up, forgetting you've got earphones on, and garrote yourself with the pesky cord. Well now this can all be avoided. Simply plug in the supplied mini tower to the mains, pop a couple of batteries into the earphones and you're away.

"Simply plug in the supplied mini tower, pop a couple of batteries into the earphones and you're away"

No lead and you're able to wander up to seven meters from the tower as you wait for downloads. The head set is very comfortable, not too heavy and, most importantly, it's secure and sturdy. Even at the loudest setting they fail to lose quality. An essential purchase.

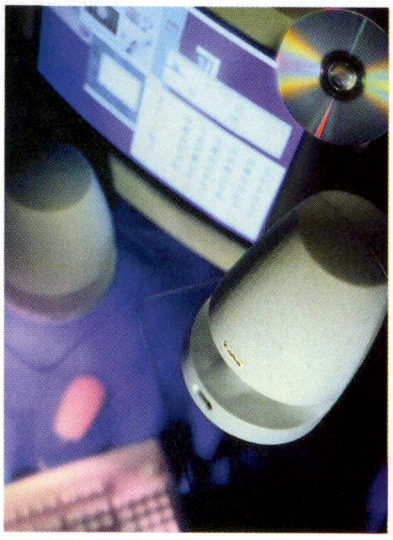
Herbs in a Bottle

CyberEssential: Herbal Drinks
Company: Gusto
Contact: 0181 964 9093
Cost: Original £1.79
Lemonade £1.09
Gingkola £1.29

It's thirsty work surfing the Internet, so perhaps a new, herbal drink from Gusto could be the answer to those tired eyes...

Watta Pair

CyberEssential: **SV-15A Speakers**
Company: **Canon**
Contact: **0181 7736000**
Cost: **£179 exc. VAT**



OK, so you've decided not to go for the Philips cordless headphones and you really want to blare our the sounds from your machine to annoy everyone within shouting distance. Well, here's the answer to your acoustic dreams...

You may be able to connect your PC up to your own music system and get great quality sound but Canon have just developed a set of computer speakers that include their own built in amplifier for hi-fi quality output. Released in time for Christmas, Canon's whoppers have the edge over a lot of competitors because they can terminate the 'tinny' sound which can be a drawback for those looking to get the best out of their PC or Macintosh. Output wise, they whack out a massive 40 watts without any distortion whatsoever.

"They're only going to appeal to hardcore Net users"

They don't come cheap though. At £179 for the pair, they're only going to appeal to hardcore Net users, but, as always, you get what you pay for and these really do the business. Produced in the UK, the grey, conehead shaped speakers can also be mounted onto the wall and, for TV protection, are magnetically shielded. Two volume controls mean that two sources can be linked up to them at any given time and Canon's unique Wide Dispersion Sound (WDS) give a larger listening span than any other model currently on the shelves.

At the end of the day it gets dark, but that aside these are worthy of any party and they'll certainly bring the best from your downloads, as well as being capable of producing neighbour annoying levels of sound.

Lemonade "Get Fresh"

The mix of both crushed lemons and apple juice really did the trick. The 2000 mg of guarana wasn't that bad either. Very stimulating indeed.

Gingkola "The Herbal Brainwave"

Remember mixing drinks as a kid, your childish days are reborn with this curious mix of tastes and smells.

Original "Adaptogens in a Bottle"

You'll be able to recognise the taste of tree roots in this unusual concoction. Tastes better than it smells.

Total Internet's Top Flavour: Lemonade

CyberEssential: **Internet Solution Pack**
Company: **Motorola**
Contact: **01635 564 467**
Cost: **£149**

The Final Solution

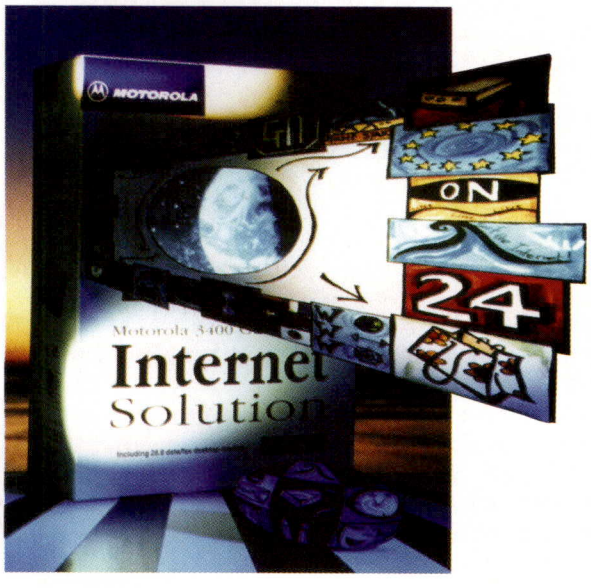
If you're a newcomer to the whole Internet scene and still haven't decided whether or not to get connected, Motorola have come up with a complete low cost, user friendly package to get you online. Everything you need to access the Internet is here, including a V.34 28.8 Kbps data/fax modem, cables and vital mains adaptor.

There's also plenty of software for newbies and, whether you're into browsing the Web, playing Internet games or talking to others, there's software catering for most needs; plus a months free Net access with the original ISP giants Compuserve.

"It's the ultimate plug and play 28.8 starter pack"

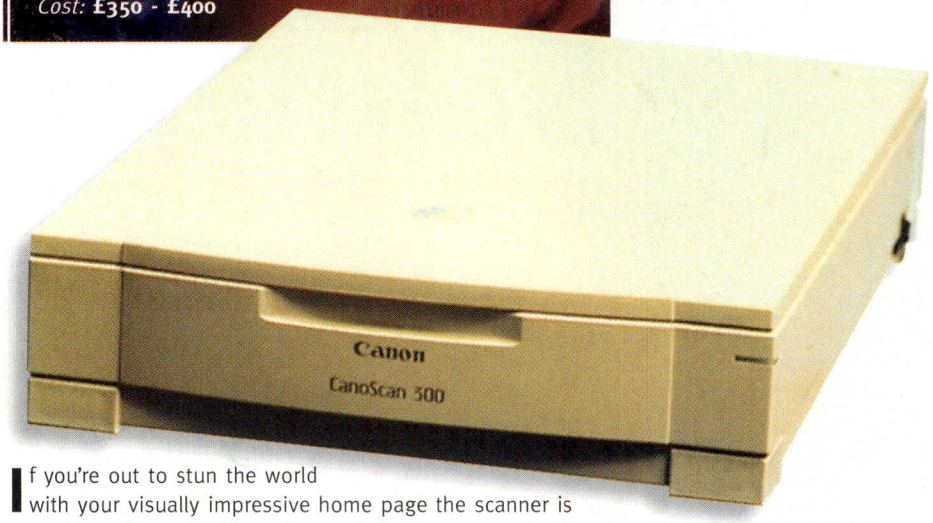
The main problem newcomers to the Internet will encounter is connecting up their modems. The Motorola pack attempts to avoid this and the simplistic animated on screen installation instructions are designed to guide even the most computer cautious around all the twists and turns involved.

Why is Motorola's pack a CyberEssential? Well, it may not be the fastest on the market, but it's ideal for total newbies with concise step by step guides and there is everything in that small box you could wish for. It's the ultimate plug and play 28.8 starter pack – guaranteed to have you surfing the Web in minutes.



If Anyone Can...

CyberEssential: **CanoScan 300 Scanner**
Company: **Canon**
Contact: **0181 7736000**
Cost: **£350 - £400**



If you're out to stun the world with your visually impressive home page the scanner is one piece of gear you'll need to make visitors come back for more. To most amateur Web authors a scanner is a mere pipe dream, forcing most people, by necessity, to steal images from other sites to put on their own.

Based on Xenon light technology, Canon have just launched their new, low cost flatbed scanner which, even though it is still quite costly for the average Web author, will give you the edge when you present original images on your home page. The Canoscan 300, to put it bluntly, is smart. It's slim (those with small desks will appreciate how little space it takes up) and zips along faster than the proverbial ferret up a trouser leg.

"It's slim and zips along faster than the proverbial ferret up a trouser leg"

Whereas most scanners on the market can only handle 16.7 million colours the Canoscan 300 smashes that with a massive 134 million. It's easily installed through your SCSI interface and Windows 95 picked it up instantly (disks are provided if you're running other versions).

The Canon software provided with the hardware is essentially of the highest order and if you don't have image editing software (forget paintbrush) don't worry. You're able to flip the scans, sharpen and change other factors of them using the supplied software. The main pointer here though is that they can be instantly saved out in a variety of formats, including TIFF, BMP and, more useful for Web authors, GIF and JPEG. The Canoscan is extremely fast and you'll have full colour A4 images on the screen within seconds.

A fantastic piece of hardware that's essential for any home page editor looking to make their page stand out from the crowd.

Hypin' it up!

CyberEssential: **Energy Drinks**
Company: **Hype**
Contact: **0171 287 1911**
Cost: **£1.25 per can**

If you're spending hours and hours at a time on the Internet, you're going to need a high energy beverage to fuel your tired mind and body. Perhaps Hype is the answer? In a 24 hour experiment the CyberEssentials team tested the four flavours while chained to the Web – metaphorically of course...

Grapefruit "Morning Rush"
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Cranberry & Raspberry "MFP"
A decent initial taste but gets ever so slightly bland on the tastebuds afterwards. Sip it and see.

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Passion Fruit "Passion Attack"
Tastes a bit like fruit salad chews. Fruity and full of umph. Guaranteed to spice up your Internet romance.

Total Internet's Top Hype Flavour: Passion Fruit

If your company has something that should be featured in CyberEssentials, contact Simon Lovell, **simonl@enterprise.net**, or write to him at the usual address.

Competition

The Essential Selection!

Enhance your Internet experience with these Cyberessentials...

This is your chance to get hold of some of the great range of high-tech items featured in the first issue of TOTAL INTERNET. We've teamed up with Motorola, Philips, Gusto and Hype to bring you this fun-packed competition.

The first prize winner will get their mitts on all of the items listed below, while 18 runners up will each receive a range of high energy drinks designed to extend their long nights on the Web well into the next day.

Send your answer, name, telephone number and address on the back of a postcard or stuck down envelope to: Essential Competition, Total Internet, Rapide Publishing, 14a Union Street, Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ12 2JS. Alternatively email your answer with all your relevant details to simonl@enterprise.net.

Closing date for entries is 28/1/97.

1st Prize

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- **8 Cans of Hype Energy Drink**
- **9 Bottles of Gusto Herbal Drink**

Runners up

- **10 runners up get 3 Bottles of Gusto**
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To Enter:

Simply write down the name of the hardware, software, gizmo or gadget that you think we should feature in a future Cyberessentials guide. This can be anything you believe is needed to create the ultimate Internet work station. The best suggestions pulled from the bag will walk off with the prizes.

Competition Rules

All entries must be by postcard, on the back of a sealed envelope or submitted by email to simonl@enterprise.net. Employees of Rapide Publishing or participating companies are strictly forbidden from entering the competition.

All entries must be received by the closing date supplied, only one entry per house hold. The editor's decision is final.

The Search for Killer Content...

In the first of his regular opinion columns Sean Clark, TOTAL INTERNET's Consultant Editor, tackles the debate about how the Internet should evolve to ensure the continuing attentions of its users...

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info@artwork.co.uk

Just a few years ago people were forecasting the demise of the 'old fashioned' book and its replacement with the, er, 'modern medium' of CD-ROM. Standards were defined, computer companies pushed CD-ROM drives as being essential add-ons for your PC and publishers spent thousands of pounds developing CD-ROM titles based on their paper publications. Yet as we approach the end of 1996 books are still very much with us and while your computer probably does now have CD-ROM capabilities, how many 'book busting' titles do you actually buy per month? If you are a typical computer user then it's probably not very many. In fact, I bet most of the CD-ROMs you own either came with your computer or come on magazine covers.

"Whoever does find the holy grail of Internet content is extremely likely to become a very wealthy person indeed."

But why am I writing about CD-ROMs in a new Internet magazine? Well, I think the lessons of CD-ROM are very relevant to those of us involved in the Net. For example, they remind us that just because a technology exists it doesn't mean that everyone will want it. One of the reasons for the slow take-up of CD-ROM was that non-evangelists just didn't see the point of it in the first place.

Additionally, the CD-ROM story tells us that we should not be so arrogant as to believe that any new media will do away with older media. CD-ROM has had to find a complimentary position alongside books - despite being initially marketed as a replacement for them. Thirdly, CD-ROM illustrates the importance of universal standards. The range of standards initially available, PC, Mac, CDi, CD32, 3DO etc, undoubtedly confused the early CD-ROM market, even if one – the PC standard – now clearly dominates. Finally, the problems of CD-ROM reinforce the old adage that 'content is king'. People will only put up with so much recycled information and at the end of the day it's good quality, original material that sells product. More than anything it's the lack of good content that has stunted the growth of CD-ROM (certainly in all sectors apart from the limited educational market).

Considering these four lessons then and there are more, the challenges facing people involved in the Internet become clear. We need to make access to the Net as simple as possible, we must clearly explain what it can do for 'non-believers' and we must ensure that it has a high profile in the rest of the media. We need to consider what makes the Internet special and develop these strengths in the context of what else is around us. We also need to do our utmost to maintain open and cross-platform standards. We need to focus on developing decent and unique content for the Net.

If we look around us we can see that in may ways the Internet is indeed developing along these lines. The Network Computer should make the Net easier to use and the involvement of traditional media, television, newspapers etc, plus the keenness of companies to get online should ensure that people continue to take notice of the Net. Similarly, standards are, just about, being enforced, with most versions of HTML, Java/J++ and VRML etc. adhering to at least a common sub-set of commands (although you have to ask for how long?). Identification of the 'uniqueness' of the Net still poses challenges, although there are enough core reasons, such as the ability to send email, for people to stay online once the initial buzz has gone. The provision of quality content though, the stuff that will really sustain people's interest in the Net is in a less favourable position.

Sure, there are some amazing sites out there, but I still feel that a truly great example of 'killer content' has yet to be found. Now, I don't think the situation is serious enough to cause a CD-ROM style 'blowout' to hit the Net, but I do feel that only when someone does find whatever 'it' is (and I am certainly excluding porn from this equation!) will the future of the Net be guaranteed.

What's more, whoever does find the holy grail of Internet content is extremely likely to become a very wealthy person indeed, even so I for one will gladly shake them by the hand.

Sean Clark is a professional Web designer with Headland Multimedia, with over seven years experience and clients including The Shamen, artist William Latham, plus various television companies. He is also Consultant Editor of TOTAL INTERNET and you can contact Sean at **seanc@uktv.co.uk** and also visit his Web Weaver pages at **http://www.headland.co.uk/seanc.**

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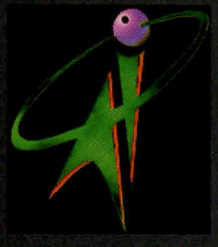

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Modems
Christmas is just around the corner and, with so many people wanting to get online, we thought it would be the ideal time to check out the latest modems on the market. We put four new 33.6's to the Total Internet test.
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3/5
4/5
4/5
3/5

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On the SuperHighway with

Sean Clark introduces Zion Train who from next month will be sending us reports from the superhighway as they tour the world with Wobbly Mobile 1...

Zion Train are currently touring the country. However, this doesn't stop them accessing the Net, as we discovered.

The last time I met up with techno-dubsters Zion Train was back stage at Nottingham's Sam Fays. I'd arrived at the venue early to add a cellular modem to Wobbly Mobile 1 – Zion Train's bag of cybertricks that includes an Apple PowerBook, an EZ drive, a CD-ROM player, a digital camera, some MIDI music equipment, and various other bits of computer wizardry. The cellular link, comprising of a datacard and Orange mobile telephone, was the long awaited final piece in this techno jigsaw. The component that would allow the band to be fully wired while on the road.

You might think that for a band to be this tuned in when it comes to new technology is a little odd. After all, portable computers and mobile phones don't come across as being particularly Rock 'N' Roll. You wouldn't ever get Oasis taking Definitely Mobile 1 on tour!

Once you meet them you soon realise that Zion Train are not your typical telly-out-of-the-window musicians:

"We're interested in this technology primarily because we see it as a tool for liberty. Access to the Net and any other available communication media can allow people to become more responsible for themselves and their lives – even the Internet itself is a great model of self-organisation", says band member Colin Cod. He adds, "We spend a great deal of time travelling and Wobbly Mobile 1 allows us to keep in touch with people by email, as well as to carry on composing music via the mobile MIDI equipment."

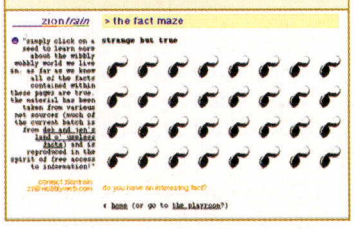
"The Internet itself is a great model of self-organisation."

This final point was well illustrated recently when Colin performed as part of the Zion Space Station during Nottingham's Now '96 festival.

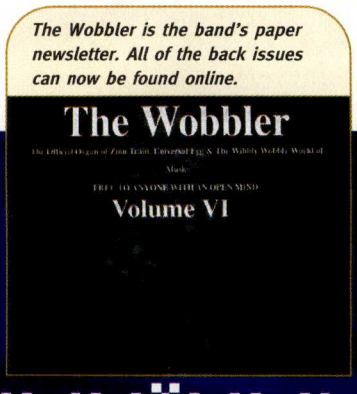
He says, "The 45 minute set we played was composed entirely using General MIDI equipment whilst on the road. It was then performed 'live' in Nottingham using the PowerBook as a sequencer and a keyboard as a sound generator. All I had to do was press the play button and hope it didn't crash!"

To add an Internet dimension to the performance the complete MIDI file was uploaded to the Internet for the duration of the performance, allowing anybody to download a copy of the set and play or alter it themselves. Colin comments, "One of the best things about the gig was that very few people there realised that the set had been made using

The band have their own Web site to further their musical aspirations.



The Wobbler is the band's paper newsletter. All of the back issues can now be found online.



Sending out a Positive Message

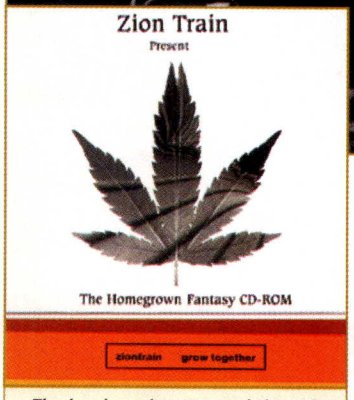
Zion Train's interest in sending out a positive message has been developing for some time. "We publish our own paper newsletter called *The Wobbler*, run our own record label, Universal Egg, and produced our first CD-ROM last year."

The CD-ROM project, called *Homegrown Fantasy*, first drew Zion Train to my attention and is an eclectic mix of dub music, facts and figures, interactive sections and bizarre graphics. What's more, it also contains loads of Web pages and Web graphics – now that's what I call mixing your media...

Zion Train

Wobbly Mobile 1

The heart of Wobbly Mobile 1 is an off-the-shelf Nokia mobile phone and datacard plugged in to the PCMCIA slot of an Apple PowerBook. The phone itself is connected to the Orange network and costs 10p per minute to connect to the Internet at 9.6K. It may be a little slow by land-line standards, but how else could you check your email when travelling down the M1 on a tour bus!



The band can be contacted through their WobblyWeb site, originally commissioned by China Records.

the highly restricted set of General MIDI sounds."

Zion Train's most public use of New Media has to be through their WobblyWeb site. The site, found at **http://wobblyweb.com,** was originally commissioned by Zion Train's record label, China Records, to help promote the band's *Grow Together* album, but is now developing rapidly into a "cyborganic community centre" (their words, not mine!) as the band focus more on its role as an information point. To quote from the introduction to the site:

"We aim to present a broad range of fringe musical, political, natural, educational and wholly risible items for your perusal. However, because the Net is a sprawling, seething mass of information, you should be aware that routes taken from here may lead to destinations that some minds might consider of an unsavoury nature". Now that's what I call a disclaimer!

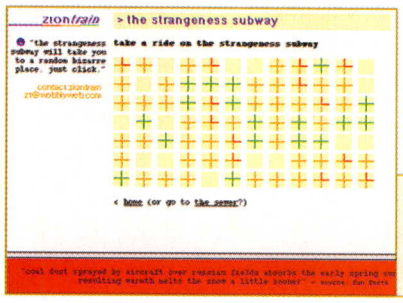
When you browse WobblyWeb you will come across a whole range of 'cyber-curios'. From the Strangeness Subway that will take you to a semi-random location on the Net whenever you click on a 'station', through to environmental links in The Garden and right-wing links in The Sewer - "know your enemy" as this page says.

Colin is keen to emphasise the "educational" side of the site and says that the disclaimer is just there to encourage people to be open minded about what they might find, "WobblyWeb contains plenty of original material, but I think the links we have chosen are just as important. We very much hold the view that the more people know about the 'truth' of what is going on around them then the more genuine control they will have over their lives. Our links are aimed at helping to raise this awareness."

What is General MIDI?

What is General MIDI and why is it particularly interesting for Internet users? Simply speaking, it's a standard set of electronic 'instruments' that can be 'played' using a MIDI sequencer. The sequencer (think of it as the conductor of an orchestra) can be a piece of computer hardware and the instruments (the orchestra itself) can be held in a synthesiser – a MIDI cable would be used to connect the two devices. Alternatively, both can be pieces of software (for example, Apple's QuickTime software contains both a MIDI sequencer and a full set of general MIDI instruments).

MIDI music 'files' – which can contain entire symphonies or just simple bleeps and jingles – can be read and played by a MIDI sequencer in the same way as a musician would read a printed score. Because MIDI files contain no actual music samples (just information about the notes to play and the instruments to use) they are very small and consequently are an ideal way of passing large amounts of music over the Internet. Simple!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contact:zionfrain zt@wobblyweb.com
< home (or go to the sewer?)

The band's site is a bizarre mix of ideas, information and trivia.

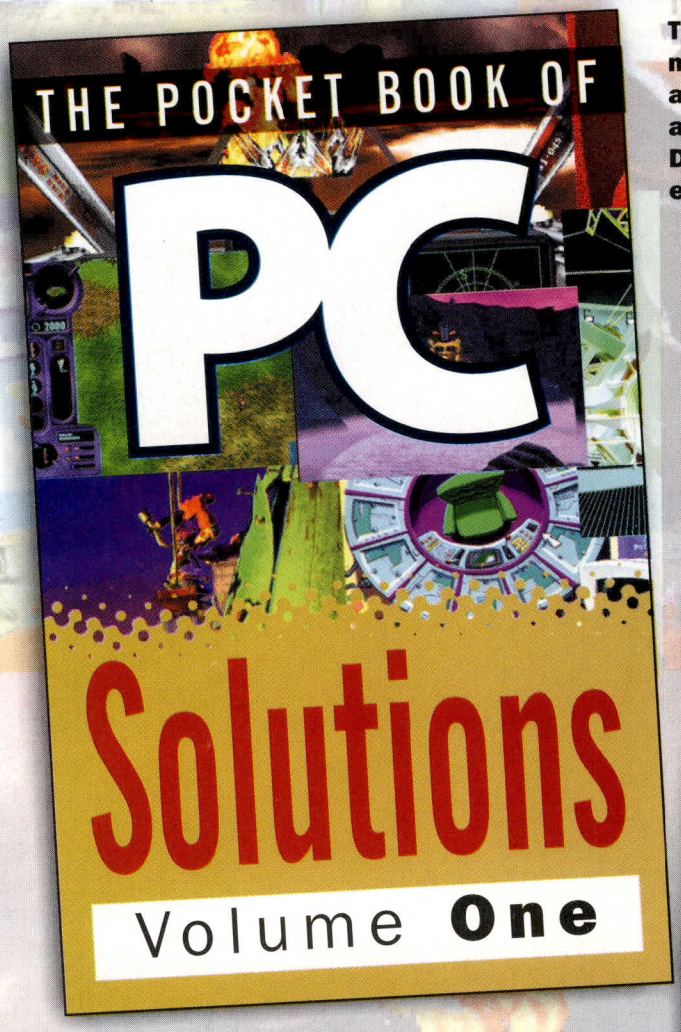
But it's not all serious stuff. WobblyWeb's Fact Maze contains loads of throwaway lines of trivia such as, "An adult blue whale's main artery is large enough for a child to crawl through". It may be a wired world but it's also a weird one!

At the end of the day it has to be the mix of hard-edged libertarianism and an eye for strangeness that helps to endear people to Zion Train and their music. Who else could be urging you to "Stand up and Fight" one minute and observing that the fear of beards is known as pognophobia the next? With Wobbly Mobile 1 now fully functional I think you can expect to come across the band even more during your Net and real-life travels...

Next Month

From next month Zion Train will be posting reports from the superhighway as they travel around the UK and Europe. You can contact the band at zt@wobblyweb.com or visit their Web site at http://wobblyweb.com.

Now Available!



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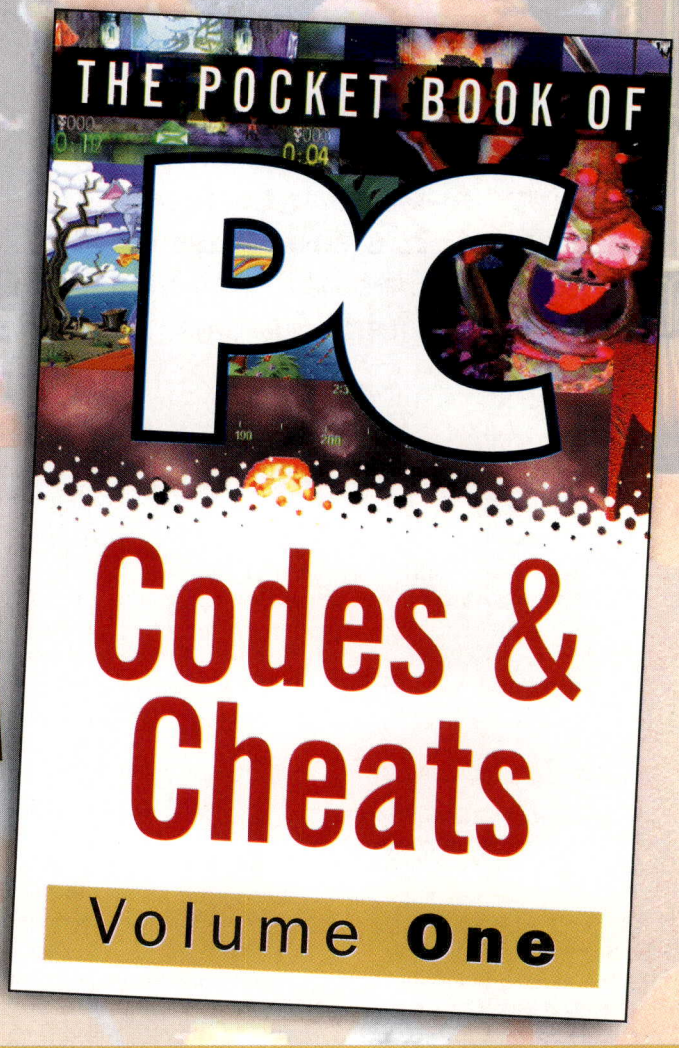

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Sale of the Century

It's easy to get nostalgic, even about a medium as fresh as the Internet, as TOTAL INTERNET contributor Gareth Lancaster discovered. It's the issue of Net advertising that has got him on his soapbox and here he explains why...

It was inevitable that this was going to happen. From the earliest days of the Internet as a household name, this commercial phenomenon was obviously at the back of people's minds. Now it's here, it's growing and, without doubt, it's starting to consume everything in its path. But what is this enigma? Well, it travels by the name advertising and it is all over the Internet.

"Now it's here, it's growing and, without any doubt, it's starting to consume everything in its path"

You can't turn a corner on the information superhighway nowadays without an online advertising billboard coming into view by the side of the road. They're everywhere, they're no longer restricted to the large sites, such as search engines, and everybody wants a piece of the advertising revenue that companies seem more than willing to throw at sites. As a result you'll now find home pages with advertising, once concise online magazines with advertising and, yes, even advertising with extra advertising.

Many Web designers now seem less willing to run a non-profit making Web site, as they can clearly see an easy way of getting paid for their hours of toil and who can blame them? Well, it all depends.

If you're running a Web site that's well visited, is informative and people enjoy it, then there's not a real problem. Sure, a banner at the top of the screen might take a little while to download and interrupts a site's flow but at the end of the day why shouldn't the all the hard work be rewarded.

Unfortunately however, due to the advent of link exchange systems, everybody seems to have advertising banners on their sites and some don't just restrict it to one banner. You may find other banners, animated banners (the growing craze) or a site might be plastered with logos to click on for sponsors etc. Please, somebody, get a grip. A home user doesn't have a dedicated ISDN connection and even with a fast modem the time it takes to download can get very annoying. Even if you turn your auto load images off, some sites use a little trick that still forces the advertising banner to come through. It's the equivalent of turning the lights off, hiding upstairs in the bedroom and discovering that the salesman still continues to knock at your door.

Now I'm not saying that advertising should be banned, but I am saying that it should be better controlled before the Internet quickly degenerates into a marketing nightmare. You see, advertising could quickly replace content. It has happened before to different media, such as magazines, where pages and pages of glossy adverts outweigh the number of pages used for editorial. It's an easy trap to fall into and one that could cause the Internet to degenerate quicker than most media because, which ever way you look at it, the Internet is the marketing man's dream.

Firstly there is the potential amount of customers an advertisement could reach on the Net, then there's the speed at which a new advertisement can be in operation from conception and lastly there are a great number of people only too willing to oblige in slapping the advertisement on their site. This is not just confined to the World Wide Web. This morning alone I received eight unsolicited emails from companies wanting to sell me this product or that service. After a while it just gets plain annoying.

Nobody rational really minds about a banner at the top of the page, but if sites continue to fill up with 'come visit us' or 'buy this product now' messages people will end up boycotting them altogether. Especially users who have used the Internet for a long period of time – these are the people who remember how it used to be, when surfing was gentle, and the hard sell advertising was confined to the television in the background. The thing is, with real time audio getting better, how long will it be until radio type advertising runs as a constant background to your surfing. Now that is just too hideous to contemplate...

Gareth Lancaster, **gareth@vick.demon.co.uk**, is an experienced Internet journalist and Web designer. Check out his Web site at **http://www.whorl.uk.com**.

Internet Café Guide

Every month our roving reporters will be dropping in on a selection of Cybercafés, all based in a certain part of the country. They'll find out what the café has to offer Net users and we'll pass the information on to you. This issue we took in a couple of cafés that can be found in the West Country...

The NetGates Cafe, Bristol

Facts at a Glance

NetGates,
51 Broad St, Bristol
0117 907 4000
cafe@netgates.co.uk

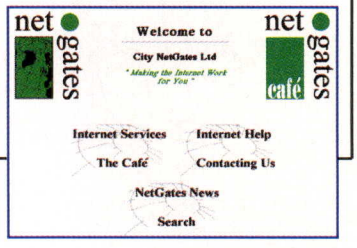
Taunton Cyber, 27 North St, Taunton
01823 353 771
info@abling.co.uk

The NetGates Café opened in February 1996 and is slap bang in the centre of Bristol, located at 51 Broad Street. The cafe provides customers with a full range of food and drinks, with the emphasis being placed firmly on wholefoods.

Within the café there are eight PCs, Gateway 2000 P90 multimedia, all accompanied by 17" monitors, to ensure a good viewing window for your Internet access, and a leased line connection to the Internet. This connects via City NetGates, which is the local service provider, whose operations centre is in the same building, so technical support and advice is never far that far away.

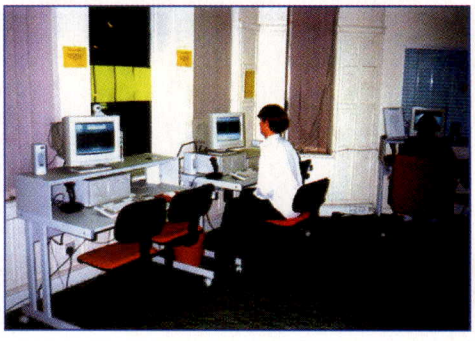
The café provides a friendly atmosphere for newcomers or the experienced user and a full range of online services, from dial-up access to web design and hosting is available. Training courses are held in the café for beginners or more advanced users and these include HTML authoring. The café is used regularly by local multimedia groups for their meetings and also provides a venue for seminars and parties.

The rates for using the PCs are £2.50 for the first half hour and pro rata thereafter. Café members get £1 per session off PC use, training discounts and their own mailbox. The café is open from 10.30am until 6.30pm from Monday to Saturday. If you would like further information, it's available from the café Web pages, located th **http://www.netgates.co.uk/cafe** or you can email **cafe@netgates.co.uk** or telephone 0117 907 4000



Taunton Cyber, Taunton

Based in the middle of the thriving country town of Taunton, the Cybercafé has been open for business for about nine months now. The exact location is The Corner House, 27 North Street, which is above the local Wimpy fast food restaurant for those familiar with the town. Full Internet access is available to the World Wide Web, Internet Chat, Gopher, Archie, FTP, email and Newsgroups; and subscribers receive all the necessary software to get on the Net, as well as their own personal email, address and telephone/ fax helpline.



The café runs an NT Server on a dial-up connection, supporting data compression, so you don't have to put up with waiting for a 28800 anymore. If you have a suitable modem (V42) you'll be able to take full advantage of this and leap to a whopping 57600! As well as Internet access, there are plenty of other facilities available to customers, including colour scanning, printing, video capture, CD-ROM mastering, Network gaming, programming, drawing and word processing.

There is always a member of staff on hand to give advice when needed and the café is open from 9.30am to 730pm every day of the week. Every level of user is welcome, from beginners upwards, and the café will also accommodate large groups (An Internet Wedding recently used the cafes facilities to conduct a full online service). The café can be contacted via email at **Info@abling.co.uk.** Alternatively you can telephone for information on 01823 353 771 or fax on 01823 353 772.

If you would like your Cybercafe to be included in a future TOTAL INTERNET guide, or you would like it listed on the opposite page, let us know. Simply email simonl@enterprise.net with the details.

Town: Name and address	Telephone	Email
ASHINGTON		
Oasis, The Coffee House, 4 Myrtel st	(01670) 521 702	oasis@oasis.netexpress.co.uk
BELFAST		
Bytes,Morglen Gardens, Turf Lodge	(01232) 749 955	bytes@worknet.thegap.com
Revelations, 27 Shaftesbury Square	(01232) 320 337	info@revelations.co.uk
BIRMINGHAM		
Café Surf, The Arcadian, Hurst St	(0121) 622 4010	info@cafesurf.co.uk
Custard Factory, Gibb st	(0121) 604 7777	connected@custard.co.uk
Sputnik, Temple St	(0121) 643 0426	sputnik@custard.co.uk
BLACKPOOL		
Cybernet, South Promenade, St Annes	(01253) 724 000	cybernet@cyberscape.co.uk
BRIGHTON		
Cybar, 9-12 Middle St	(01273) 707 900	info@cybar.co.uk
BRISTOL		
NetGates, 51 Broad St	(0117) 907 4000	cafe@netgates.co.uk
BURY ST EDMUNDS		
Garland Cafe, 4 Garland St	(01284) 753 373	garland_cafe@post.dungeon.com
CAMBRIDGE		
CB1, 32 Mill Rd	(01223) 576 306	sturdy@CB1.com
CANTERBURY		
Chaucer Cyberspace, Spring Lane	(01227) 763 636	derek@mail.chaucer.ac.uk
CARDIFF		
Cardiff Cybercafé, 9 Duke St	(01222) 235 757	pauls@cardiffcybercafe.co.uk
Grassroots Cybercafé, 58 Charles St	(01222) 231 700	cafe@ccyp.celtic.co.uk
CHELTENHAM		
Cyber Gallery, 15 Clarence Parade	(01242) 262 694	everyone@cybergallery.co.uk
CRAWLEY		
Tiny Computers' Internet Café	(01293) 619 925	ifacb@pncl.co.uk
CROYDON		
Cyberzone, 1 Dingwall Rd	(0181) 681 6500	zone1@cyberzone.co.uk
DARLINGTON		
Beiderbeckes, 30-32 Bondgate	(01325) 282 675	wired@beiderbeckes.co.uk
DUBLIN		
Internet Exchange, Lower Stephens St	(00 353) 14758788	cafe@intex.ie
EDINBURGH		
Cyberia, 88 Hanover St	(0131) 220 4403	edinburgh@easynet.co.uk
electricFROG, 42-44 Cockburn St	(0131) 226 1505	admin@electricfrog.co.uk
Hog's Head, 62 South Clerk St	(0131) 667 574	tv-eye@easynet.co.uk
Web13, 13 Bread St	(0131) 229 8883	queries@presence.co.uk
EXETER		
Internet Express Web Café	(01392) 201 544	cafe@mail.InXpress.co.uk
GATESHEAD		
Design Works, William St, Felling	(0191) 495 0066	nickoliver@aol.com
GLASGOW		
The Internet Café, 239 North St	(0141) 221 8447	tim@linkcafe.co.uk
GREAT YARMOUTH		
The Internet Café, 145A King St	(01493) 856 523	tom@comdoc.demon.co.uk
GREENOCK		
Café Roslin, Dalrymple St	(01475) 730 576	roslin@easynet.co.uk
GRIMSBY		
Webgate, 7 East St.Mary's Gate	(01472) 269 769	info@webgate.co.uk
GUILDFORD		
CaféNet, 2-3 Phoenix Court	(01483) 451 945	cafenet@cafenet.co.uk
Quarks, 7 Jeffries Passage	(01483) 451 166	nick@quarks.co.uk
GLOUCESTER		
Icon.net Intercafe, 124-126 Barton St	(01452) 307 049	kab15@dial.pipex.com
HARLOW		
Cyberdine, Market Square	(01279) 423 910	newstem@btlip23.bt.co.uk
HARROW		
The Edge, St George's Centre	(0181) 424 2427	info@the-edge.ha1.com
Get Surfed!, 4-6 Peterborough Rd	(0181) 426 4446	bindu@getsurfed.co.uk
HEBDEN BRIDGE		
2nd Byte Cybercentre, Bridge Mill		secondbyte@dial.pipex.com
HITCHIN		
Garden CityNet, Parc Computers	(01462) 434 082	parc@gardencitynet.
HUDDERSFIELD		
Windows on the World, Kirklees Centre	(01484) 431 289	mediacentre@inin.co.uk
HULL		
Net 21, 15 Savile St	(01482) 322 488	kevin@net21.co.uk
IPSWICH		
Global Net-Café, 28 Tacket St	(01473) 215 225	globalcafeI@clubuk.co.uk
KINGSTON-ON-THAMES		
Cyberia, 48 High St	(0181) 974 9650	kingston@easynet.co.uk
LEEDS		
@the café, 6-8 Chapel Pl, Headingley	(0113) 294 4270	stuart@thecafe.co.uk
Planet Connect, 5-5a Cross Belgrave St	(0113) 297 0040	heyup@planetconnect.co.uk

Town: Name and address	Telephone	Email
LEICESTER		
Environ, The Ark, 2-4 St Martins Sq	(0116) 233 9660	ravi@ark.org
LIVERPOOL		
Café Internet, 28 North John St	(0151) 255 1112	info@cafeliv.u-net.com
LONDON		
Backspace, Clink St	(0171) 378 1011	info@backspace.org
Buzz Bar, 97 Portobello Rd	(0171) 727 7898	info@buzzbar.co.uk
Café Internet, 22 Buckingham Palace Rd	(0171) 233 5786	cafe@cafeinternet.co.uk
Cyberia, 39 Whitfield St	(0171) 209 0982	cyberia@easynet.co.uk
Cyberia Ealing, 73 New Broadway	(0181) 840 3131	ealing@cyberiacafe.net
Internet Centre, Heathrow Airport	(0181) 759 2434	???????????
Microplay Games, 165 Ballards lane	(0181) 371 0422	netsurf@microply.demon.co.uk
Network City, Marylebone High St	(0171) 224 4400	nc@networkcity.co.uk
Spidercafé, 195 Portobello Rd	(0171)229 2990	gavin@spidercafe.co.uk
Surf.net Café, 13 Deptford Church St	(0181) 488 1200	surfnet@dircon.co.uk
The Vibe Bar, 91 Brick Lane	(0171) 247 2406	info@hyena.co.uk
LUTON		
Hard Drive Cafe, 16 King St	(01582) 485621	JW@HardCafe.co.uk
MARLBOROUGH		
Aspen Internet, Hughendon Yard	(01672) 511 388	shop@aspen-internet.net
MANCHESTER		
Cyberia, 12 Oxford St	(0161) 236 6300	manchester@cyberiacafe.net
Kaleida, 448 Wilmslow Rd	(0161) 291 1525	office@kscope.u-net.com
Wet, Dry Bar, 28 Oldham St	(0161) 236 5920	dry@wet.u-net.com
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE		
Internet Suite, Orbit 3 Games Park	(0191) 232 5377	orbit3-internetcafe@dial.pipex.com
NORTHAMPTON		
Leisure Video, 21 High Street, Thrapston	(01832) 735 202	scanners@easynet.co.uk
NOTTINGHAM		
Cyberpub, 5 Victoria Centre	(0115) 947 5394	NTM00001@cyberpub.adr.co.uk
ORPINGTON		
Electr@net Cafe, 316 High St	(01689) 877 878	administrator@electranet.com
OXFORD		
The Internet Centre, 193 Cowley Rd	(01865) 295 066	angle@mail.cts-group.co.uk
PETERBOROUGH		
Club Internet, 67-69 Mayors Walk	(01733) 759 000	clubnet@easynet.co.uk
PORTSMOUTH		
Cyber Point, Portsmouth Snooker Club	(01705) 829 569	net1@athene.co.uk
PRESTON		
The Cybercentre, 16 Moor Lane	(01772) 888 188	preston@cybercentre.co.uk
READING		
Caversham Emporium, 10 Bridge St	(01734) 462 175	jo02@dial.pipex.com
ROMFORD		
Global Net-Café, 70-72 South St	(01708) 728 139	globalcafe@clubuk.co.uk
SHAFTESBURY		
Shaftesbury Cyber Café, Salisbury St	(01747) 853 031	stella@wessex.co.uk
SHEFFIELD		
Elektra, 19 Westfield Terrace	(0114) 270 1171	webmaster@elektra-cafe.co.uk
Punters, 111 Arundel St	(0114) 276 2668	webmaster@mail.punters.co.uk
SOUTHAMPTON		
Cyberscone, 75 Bedford Place	(01703) 635 429	pagles@aladdin.co.uk
ST HELIER, JERSEY		
Mighty Mouse Internet Café	(01534) 625 066	themouse@itl.net
ST NEOTS, CAMBRIDGSHIRE		
The Internet Experience, 11 Fishers Yard	(01480) 386 836	experience@intecc.co.uk
STOCKPORT		
Peak Art Cybercafé, 30 Market St	(01663) 747 770	peak@artcybercafe.cityscape.co.uk
The Net, Maestro House	(0161) 439 0610	info@the-net.u-net.com
STORNOWAY, WESTERN ISLES		
Captions, 27 Church St	(01851) 702 238	bayble@captions.co.uk
SWANSEA		
Cyber Stop Internet Café, Portland St	(01792) 465 050	internet@cyberstop.net
TAUNTON		
Taunton Cyber, 27 North St	(01823) 353 771	info@abling.co.uk
WARRINGTON		
Talk 101, 101 Buttermarket St	(01925) 245 145	info@mail.talk-101.com
WESTON SUPER MARE		
Cybercity, 26 Meadow St	(01934) 418 888	data@cybercity.co.uk
WOLVERHAMPTON		
The Molineux Cyber Bar	(01902) 651 111	info@mbcis.co.uk
WREXHAM		
Cyberia, 8 Hill St	(01978) 264 050	wrexham@cyberiacafe.net

A BEGINNERS GUIDE TO

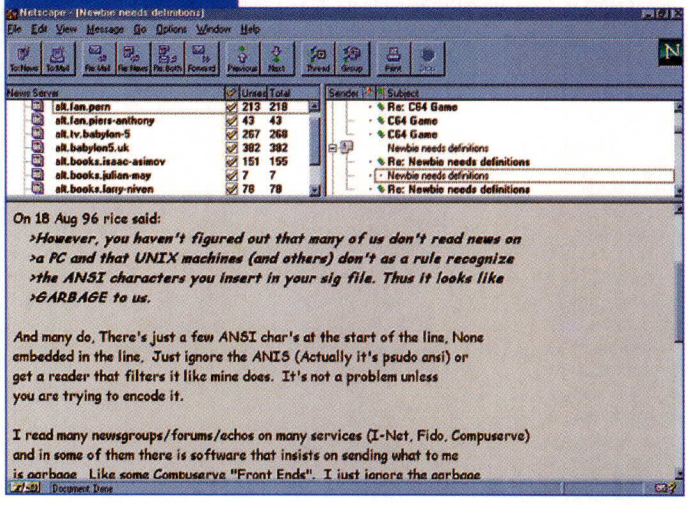
Usenet

It may be the oldest but it's also one of the fastest evolving areas of the Internet. Gary Joyce casts an analytical eye over Usenet...

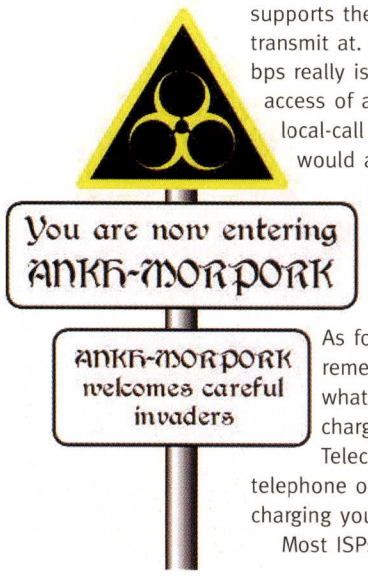
What is it?

An explanation of what Usenet is all about is really very straightforward. Basically, it's a collection of newsgroups, over 60 thousand at the last count, which are divided into areas of interest. Most of the names indicate roughly what the area is about, some do this quite graphically!

You will need an ISP and newsreader to access Usenet.


Netscape - [Newbie needs definitions]
File Edit View Message Go Options Window Help
News Server
alt.fan.porn 213 218
alt.fan.piers-anthony 43 43
alt.tv.babylon-5 267 268
alt.babylon5.uk 382 382
alt.books.isaac-asimov 151 155
alt.books.julian-may 7 7
alt.books.larry-niven 78 78
Sender Subject
Re: C64 Game
C64 Game
C64 Game
Newbie needs definitions
Re: Newbie needs definitions
Newbie needs definitions
Re: Newbie needs definitions
On 18 Aug 96 rice said:
>However, you haven't figured out that many of us don't read news on
>a PC and that UNIX machines (and others) don't as a rule recognize
>the ANSI characters you insert in your sig file. Thus it looks like
>GARBAGE to us.
And many do, There's just a few ANSI char's at the start of the line, None
embedded in the line. Just ignore the ANIS (Actually it's psudo ansi) or
get a reader that filters it like mine does. It's not a problem unless
you are trying to encode it.
I read many newsgroups/forums/echos on many services (I-Net, Fido, Compuserve)
and in some of them there is software that insists on sending what to me
is garbage. Like some Compuserve "Front Ends". I just ignore the garbage
Document Done

To access Usenet you will need an ISP and a Newsreader, check later in the feature for recommendations, and a computer with a modem, which should be V32bis or better. When you choose your ISP, make sure it supports the speeds you wish to transmit at. Slower than 14400 bps really is too slow for Internet access of any kind. A 9600 bps local-call rate connection would actually be more expensive than a 28800 bps long-distance call, since the time online would be prohibitively long. As for call charges, remember that on top of whatever your ISP is charging you, British Telecom, or any other telephone operator, is also charging you for your online time.



Most ISPs in the UK now provide local call rates and you should definitely shop around for this, and for a minimum online time charge.

Once you're online and through to Usenet, you will need to subscribe to groups. Most ISPs do not charge for subscriptions, but CompuServe and other providers do actually charge by the group, so watch your monthly bills.

Subscription should be easy. Simply get a full listing of all the groups your ISP has available, this may take anything up to 30 minutes, then go through and mark off those you want to join. If you are not being charged for this subscription, you would be well advised to join all the groups you have even a remote interest in – you can always unsubscribe later. After this initial hit you can merely load your subscribed groups each time you log on, thus saving download time.

Make sure you know what you're doing before you try uploading to a group; announce yourself to the group as a 'newbie', no-one will take the mickey out of you – newbies always get emails and online help where needed – everyone was a newbie once!

Once you have subscribed to a group, lurk for a few days or weeks until you learn the protocols of the group. If your group does not appear to have a list of Nettiquette or FAQs, then ask a frequent contributor for help – they will probably know what you need to know, and will tell you, but you have to ask first.

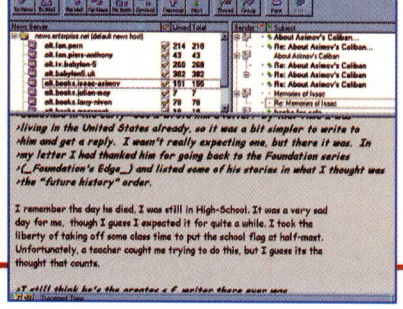
FAQs serve a dual purpose – they help you, and they tell you what you should not do when online to that particular group. For example – the *Star Trek* groups nearly all concentrate on the original series and they intensely dislike any mention of sex in any way, shape or form.

One other point to mention – your first upload should be to your server's test group. This is normally called something like alt.test or misc.test, use this until you are sure you've got it right, otherwise you will be flamed. Test groups should also be flagged in the description area as test only, local, do not download, stop, etc, since this will prevent you being flooded with loads of automated responses from offline readers. If you don't do this you'll still be getting responses over a week later from the American and Australian servers.

To Censor or Not to Censor

That is indeed the question. The debate over Internet censorship is liable to be the most intense and vitriolic since the infamous *Lady Chatterley* trial of the 1960s. Many Internet users consider Usenet to be the quintessential expression of free speech, as there are no governmental or other official restrictions on the nature of information transmitted. Critics of this freedom, however, maintain this is nothing but a license to purvey pornography, racism, sedition and other evils. It is certain that everyone will have an opinion to voice in this most polarised of debates.

The fundamental problem with censorship is that while it is relatively easy for governments to enact censorship laws, it becomes a habit that is extremely hard to break. The inevitable result of this is the prohibition of any information or discussion that may be considered detrimental to or critical of that government. Given that the United States and Great Britain have two of the worlds' most obsessively secretive governments I personally find the



concept of any further restrictions to our personal freedom very distasteful indeed. I am well aware that there are serious concerns relating to the information and images that children have accessed on the Internet and I will deal with this issue in a later section.

Certain ISPs have taken this matter into their own hands by restricting the Newsfeed on their systems. This action is obviously up to the corporate consciences of the individual ISPs, but they may find that the economics of such censorship, in an increasingly competitive market, soon become insupportable as people begin to transfer their accounts to providers that offer automated and uncensored Newsfeed.

At the present time, ISPA are arguing the toss with Scotland Yard over a list of news groups that the Police have demanded they take off-line. ISPA are currently working on a voluntary code of practice over Newsgroup ettiquette, it has yet to be decided whether they will take responsibility for content.

Newsfeed – Is your provider responsible for your actions?

Most Internet providers claim not to censor Newsfeed, however, some service providers have blocked the feed to most of the alt.pictures.binaries. areas. This is where most pornography or 'alternative' material appears on Usenet. Most notable in this group are CompuServe, one of the oldest and largest ISPs.

This is a tricky situation. By blocking the newsfeed in any way the providers automatically take responsibility for the contents of the Newsgroups they have blocked. This means they will be legally responsible for the contents of those groups, and for the contents of the groups they allow through – thereby leaving themselves open to prosecution should someone find something really offensive on the remaining groups.

On the other hand, if your provider doesn't censor the Newsfeed in any way, they can claim that they have no knowledge of any Usenet group, and cannot therefore be prosecuted, since they do not legally have any responsibility for merely providing access to other people's views, ideas or even hardcore pornography!

"If your provider doesn't censor the Newsfeed, they can claim they have no knowledge of any Usenet group"

Software

Your host in this article has a Compaq Presario 7170, running Windows 95, using Netscape Gold version 2.02 for viewing Newsgroups and for downloads, and Winvn32 for uploading, because with Netscape you can only upload 30Kb at one time and this can be very limiting for anything except very small text files.

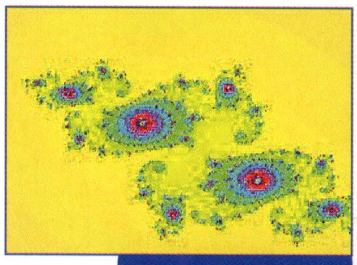
If you are running a 386 or higher processor, I would sincerely recommend Netscape, version 2 or higher, for access to newsgroups. It is very easy to configure your options and is also user friendly. This is important if you're relatively new to the Internet or computing, as you want to be spending your online time actually being involved with the media you are accessing and not worrying about connection details and TCP/IP stacks.

(As an add-on to this, I would like to say that this was written over a month ago, since when I have discovered the joy of Microsoft Internet Explorer V3 plus news and mail. This is brilliant, and if you have a PC with Windows 95 then I would certainly recommend it over Netscape every time)

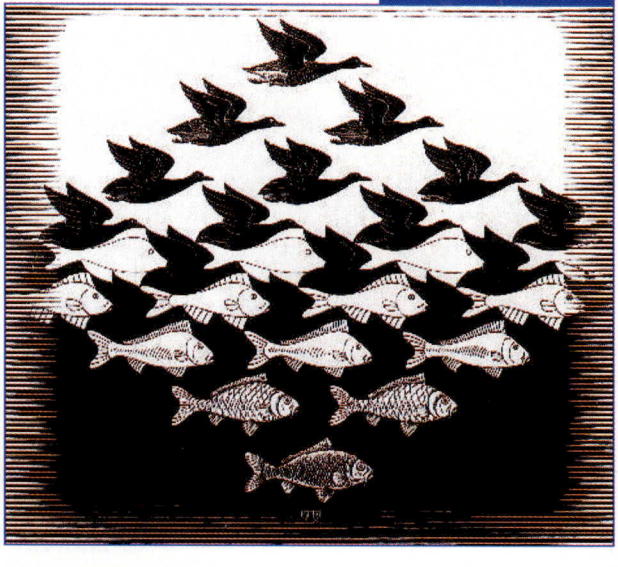
If you have a Macintosh, your PPP details or TCP/IP stacks are configured for you by your Mac, just make sure that the start-up extension is enabled. We would still recommend Netscape for Macintosh, since they have made a very good system.

If you don't want Netscape or have access to other software then ignore this advice – it's a purely personal opinion. You should, however, ensure that your browser supports frames, otherwise you will miss out on the full glory of Web pages and you'll find Usenet very difficult to organise.

One further point, there are so-called Integrated Front End Browsers available which claim to enable you to browse the Web, read newsgroups, upload to newsgroups, send and receive mail etc. Be warned, these browsers are seldom user-friendly and do little or nothing to improve your overall system performance.



Expect to find unusual imagery in many newsgroups.



An example of the type of images you can find in art groups on Usenet.

Usenet

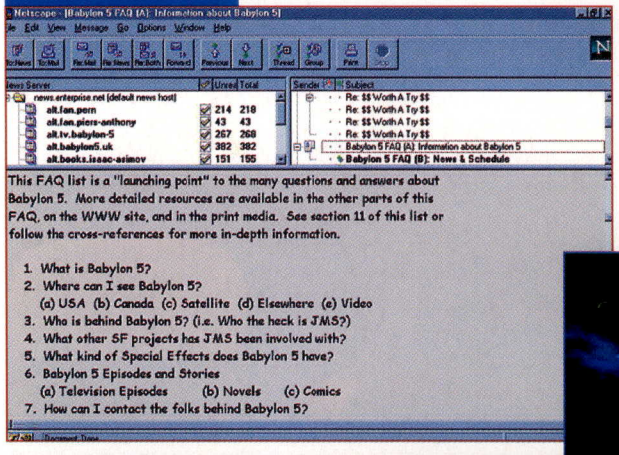
A Parents' guide to Usenet

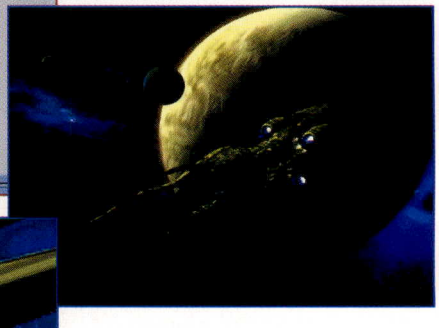
First of all let there be no doubt whatsoever in anyone's mind. There is pornography on Usenet. There is also racism, intolerance and a whole mish-mash of unpleasantness, but that is basically a part of the human condition. There is also a lot of interesting and useful information to find, so there is a balance. ISPA has declared that no child under the age of 16 should have access to Usenet and this is sensible advice. Not even the most conscientious of parents, using the most powerful parental control software, could hope to trap all the nasties out there waiting for junior. Usenet is not a children's playground and if you allow your offspring into this area you do so at your peril.

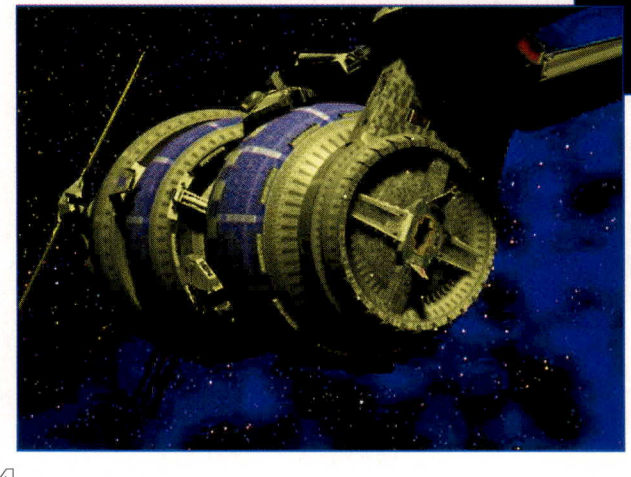
"Not even the most conscientious of parents could hope to trap all the nasties out there waiting for junior."

Parental control software such as CyberPatrol and NetNanny is readily and for the most part freely available from a variety of sites. If you are with CompuServe and don't want to download the software you can obtain it direct from them on CD-ROM. Once you've obtained your software simply tell it that Usenet is not to be accessible. You can also disable certain search words, the most obvious being sex. Take the time to understand the software and you should be able to leave your children to it, safe in the knowledge you've prevented them accessing the less desirable sites.

Parental control is a big issue here.


Netscape - [Babylon 5 FAQ (A): Information about Babylon 5]
File Edit View Message Go Options Window Help
news.enterprise.net (default news host)
alt.fan.porn 214 218
alt.fan.piers-anthony 43 43
alt.tv.babylon-5 267 268
alt.babylon5.uk 382 382
alt.books.isaac-asimov 151 155
Re: $$ Worth A Try $$
Re: $$ Worth A Try $$
Re: $$ Worth A Try $$
Re: $$ Worth A Try $$
Babylon 5 FAQ (A): Information about Babylon 5
Babylon 5 FAQ (B): News & Schedule
This FAQ list is a "launching point" to the many questions and answers about Babylon 5. More detailed resources are available in the other parts of this FAQ, on the WWW site, and in the print media. See section 11 of this list or follow the cross-references for more in-depth information.
1. What is Babylon 5?
2. Where can I see Babylon 5?
(a) USA (b) Canada (c) Satellite (d) Elsewhere (e) Video
3. Who is behind Babylon 5? (i.e. Who the heck is JMS?)
4. What other SF projects has JMS been involved with?
5. What kind of Special Effects does Babylon 5 have?
6. Babylon 5 Episodes and Stories
(a) Television Episodes (b) Novels (c) Comics
7. How can I contact the folks behind Babylon 5?





Browser's Guide

Most people use the alt. (alternative) areas of Usenet, which is where more than 75% of Usenet activity occurs. However there are thousands more specific areas for you to visit, and new ones are added every day. Some of these may well be unique to your ISP, so they're there for you to enjoy.

If you do want your child to have access to discussion groups and to 'meet' their peers on the Net, the best course of action could be to join CompuServe, AOL or Microsoft Network (MSN). These ISPs offer a much more structured environment and CompuServe in particular operate a forum system for open discussion. The advantage of this is that the forums are moderated (controlled) and to the best of their abilities the ISPs keep offensive or obscene material out of the system. Do bear in mind, however, that the Internet is addictive because there is so much information out there and every three months you're going to get the phone bill! If your browser allows you to set time limits on connection it might be a good idea to use this function. Alternatively, use CompuServe or AOL exclusively, since these can be set to weekend use only, or 30 minutes per day, or whatever you feel is right for your child.

Check out some of the following, adding your own topics in the ‹areas› section of the address:

- **alt.binaries.pictures.<areas>**

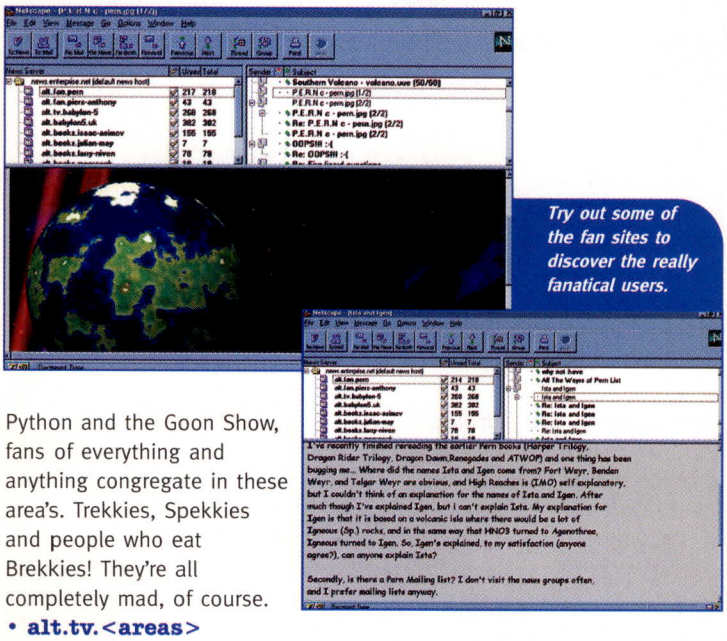
The area that gets the most vitriol from obsessive types – the alt.binaries.pictures range from the sublime, through the highly disgusting, to the utterly pornographic and ridiculous. There are fractals, full-frontals, nude celebrities, nude enthusiastic amateurs, porn stars, Disney film clips, and any perversion you can imagine and some you probably would rather not!

- **alt.books.<areas>**

Most of the authors here are science fiction or horror writers and these areas are for people who really know their favourite authors. Remember, if you misquote even once you'll get a dozen emails telling you how wrong you are.

- **alt.fan.<areas>**

From Terry Pratchett and Anne McCaffrey, through to Monty



Try out some of the fan sites to discover the really fanatical users.

Python and the Goon Show, fans of everything and anything congregate in these area's. Trekkies, Spekkies and people who eat Brekkies! They're all completely mad, of course.

• alt.tv.<areas>

My favourite areas at the moment is alt.tv.babylon-5, which is the American site for fans of this program, and alt.babylon5.uk, which is, unsurprisingly enough, the UK version. The conversation here can get very deep – people who join these groups really are interested in their subject! Don't be tempted to call anyone sad for what you may feel is an obsessive interest, these people will flame you with a mere phrase.

• alt.edu.<areas>

Most American and Canadian Universities actually have BBS gateways and Usenet sites; these are the people who were there first, and they really dig the Internet. Professors in America seem to spend more time on the Web than they do teaching class. Probably the only way that CompSci Majors in America get to speak to their personal tutors is by going online themselves!

• alt.religion.<areas>

This can get very heavy. The fundamentalists are all here and so are the radical moderates (whatever that means). At the moment there's a particularly interesting flame war going down between Christian Scientists and Mormons in the state of Utah. These people are even more serious than those in the fan areas. Call someone a name here, and you could well find yourself on the news after the Ayatollah issues a Fatwah against you!

If you can't find a group you want to be a part of simply start your own, your ISP will provide details of how to do this.

More than anywhere else, whatever you are into you'll find it on Usenet. The oldest, fastest growing, most ludicrous and perverse part of the Internet has finally got a life of its own. It is the people of Usenet who make Usenet. The Web exists on corporations – everyone's got an http address nowadays. For myself, Usenet is everything I always imagined the Internet would be. A forum for discussion, an area for religion, education, critique and downright smut.

Next month our Beginners' Guide takes you through the trials and tribulations of your first excursions using email. We show you how to get the most out of your email and explain the do's and don'ts of writing on the Net.

Glossary

BANDWIDTH: The size of the space taken up by a file. Only a certain amount of bandwidth is available and any posting or cross-posting takes up bandwidth. It is considered ill manners to post more than 400Kb per day, since more than this takes up bandwidth and could result in some older ISPs not receiving your posting or, more importantly, someone else's.

BBS: Bulletin Board System. These are rather old fashioned. A techno-freak with a computer and a modem and usually more money than sense, who just want's to give people access to what he or she likes.

BPS: Bytes per second – access speed via Modem.

CCITT: Consultative Committee for International Telephone and Telegraph. An international body that specifies international communication standards.

CROSS-POSTING: Uploading (or posting) to more than one group at a time; this goes on a lot in the erotica area of alt.binaries.pictures, but it's known as spamming and annoys people intensely. Only cross-post to two or three groups at a time, more than this and you are hogging bandwidth.

DUPLEX: A characteristic of data transmission. Either full or half-duplex. Full-duplex permits simultaneous, two-way communications. Half-duplex means only one side can transmit at a time.

FAQS: Frequently Asked Questions. Relating in this case to Netiquette, how to use the group you are in, how to up and download, what will make you a target for Flaming.

FLAMES: When you annoy enough people on a group, then you will be flamed (Literally, shot down in flames!).

FLAME WARS: When a group splits down the middle, and two sides (or more) start in-fighting, then a flame war starts. This can get nasty.

GIF: CompuServe Graphics Image File. Used to be the most commonly used picture format on the Internet, but it's slow loading and lumpy. Also the compression ratio leaves a lot to be desired.

ISP: Internet Service Provider.

ISPA: Internet Service Providers' Association – An advisory body for International Net and Usenet matters

JPEG (OR JPG): Joint Photographic Experts Group. Most of the images you see on the Internet nowadays are JPEGs. The compression ratio is brilliant – up to 75% compression with no loss of picture quality. They load quickly, and now that Quicktime is available for DOS, Windows and MacOS, everyone can view them.

KB: Kilobyte. 1,024 bytes.

LURKING: In this case, not a criminal offence. Lurking is observing the procedure of a group for a few days or weeks until you are familiar with the most frequent contributors, what is and isn't acceptable, who gets flamed, and why, and so on.

MODEM: A device that modulates digital data into analogue sound for transmission via telephone lines.

NETIQUETTE: What to do, and what not to do online.

NEWBIE: Someone who has not used Usenet before.

NEWSFEED: Provision of Usenet access by your ISP.

NEWSREADER: A program, such as Netscape, which provides access to the Usenet groups.

OFFLINE READER: There are several of these on the market; basically you tell your reader what groups to scan and it downloads all the articles for you. Quicker than online access, provided, of course, that you actually wanted all the information (including spam) which has appeared on the group.

SPAM: The most annoying thing on Usenet, when multiple cross-postings are made to more than two groups at a time, is called 'Spamming'. Don't do this. If you get annoyed by Spamming, the usual answer for the first offence is to flame the spammer. The second offence is usually answered by returning the offending spam 50 or so times to the spammer's email address. This is effective, since if every user of a group returns the spam 50 times, then the spammer's ISP may well charge them extra for having too many 'hits' on their account. If the spammer re-offends, the usual course of action is to report them to their ISP and get their account terminated. Fans of Monty Python will know exactly why this is called spamming – remember the sketch?

V32BIS: A CCITT standard for 14400 bps transmission.

Service Providers

Welcome to the first ever TOTAL INTERNET directory of Internet Service Providers. We have attempted to contact and include every company in the UK, so have a look for one that's relevant to your area and give them a call.

If your ISP isn't listed in our directory, or the details are incorrect, simply telephone, fax or email Simon Lovell, simonl@enterprise.net. We cannot always guarantee your immediate inclusion, deadlines etc, but we will use your details as soon as possible.

You may be looking for your first ever Service Provider (ISP) or thinking it's time for a change from the company your with. Whatever the reason for perusing these pages, it's worth making a detailed study of the deals on offer. At the end of the day it's hard earned cash your parting with, so don't be afraid to shop around and try a few ISPs for size before making your final decision.

Remember to look into the whole deal on offer. The majority of ISPs allow you to rent space on their Web server to store your own Web site and pages – find out the details of this, such as initial set-up costs, price per 5Mb rented, minimum space allowed, how much it costs to have your own domain etc. It's also worth finding out the maximum bandwidth they offer, which is a rough guide to how simple it will be to dial in, especially during peak hours. Finally, the cheapest deal financially, may not always provide the strongest technical support for example, so consider all the angles before coming to a final decision.

Our comprehensive directory is here to make this task that little bit easier. We provide you with the name of the provider, the ways you can get in touch with them (email, telephone, World Wide Web) and the cost of connecting via this ISP. If you're not sure of any details ring the company or check their Web site.

UK

NAME	CONTACT NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS	WEB SITE	CHARGE PER MONTH	BACKBONE PROVIDER
Abel Internet	(0131) 445 5554	info@abel.net.uk	www.abel.net.uk	£7.99	BT
AAP Internet	(0181) 427 1166	sales@aapi.co.uk	www.aapi.co.uk	£8.51	Netkonect
ACE	(01670) 528204	info@ace.co.uk	www.ace.co.uk	£10	Planet
Airtime Internet Resources	(01254) 676 921	sales@airtime.co.uk	www.airtime.co.uk	from £10	Pipex
Almac	(01324) 666 336	info@almac.net.uk	www.almac.net.uk	from £5	BT
AOL	(0800) 279 1234	queryuk@aol.com	www.aol.com	£5.95	AOL
Atlas	(0171) 312 0400	info@atlas.co.uk	www.atlas.co.uk	£12	PIPnet
Avel Pip	(01752) 600 101	info@avel.co.uk	www.avel.com	£12.50	VBCnet & Xara
Aviators Network	(01727) 868 468	info@avnet.co.uk	www.avnet.co.uk	£10	PSInet
Baynet	(01222) 486 401	enq@baynet.co.uk	www.baynet.co.uk	from £10	Netkonect
BT Internet	(0800) 800 001	sales@btinternet.com	www.btinternet.com	£15	BTnet
Byson Computers	(01635) 869 480	Ian@Byson.demon.co.uk	www.hiyway.co.uk/~byson	£15	Hiway/Pipex
Cerbernet	(0171) 360 8000	sales@cerbernet.co.uk	www.cerbernet.co.uk	£12	BTnet
CityScape Global Media	(01223) 566 950	sales@cityscape.co.uk	www.cityscape.co.uk	£15	Demon
CIX	(0181) 296 9666	sales@compulink.co.uk	www.compulink.co.uk	£15	BTnet
Cacoon Internet Services	(0171) 831 7704	admin@cocoon.co.uk	www.cocoon.co.uk	£15	Pipex
Compuserve	(0800) 289 378	70006.101@compuserve.com	www.compuserve.com	£6.50	CompuServe
CYBERphile Internet	(01543) 454 840	info@cyberphile.co.uk	www.cyberphile.co.uk	£9.99	Xara
Cygnet Internet Services	(0181) 880 4650	info@cygnet.co.uk	www.cygnet.co.uk	£8	Pipex
Delphi Internet	(GNS) (0171) 757 7080	ukservice@delphi.com	www.delphi.com	£10	Delphi UK
Demon Internet	(0181) 371 1234	sales@demon.co.uk	www.demon.co.uk	£10	Demon
Direct Connection	(0181) 297 2200	sales@dircon.co.uk	www.dircon.co.uk	£10	BTnet
Domino Systems	(01865) 391 111	sales@domino.com	www.domino.com	£10	Pipex
Easynet	(0171) 681 4444	admin@easynet.co.uk	www.easynet.co.uk	£9.90	BTnet
ElectricMail	(01223) 501 333	info@elmail.co.uk	www.elmail.co.uk	n/a	PSInet
Entanet	(0500) 368 2638	james@enta.net	www.enta.net	£9	VBCnet
Enterprise	(01624) 677 666	sales@enterprise.net	www.enterprise.net	£8	BTnet

NAME	CONTACT NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS	WEB SITE	CHARGE PER MONTH	BACKBONE PROVIDER
Europe Online	(0800) 106 610	info@Europeonline.com	www.Europeonline.com	from £3.95	Transpack
Fast-Net Developments	(0161) 291 8338	sales@fast-net.co.uk	www.fast-net.co.uk	£12.50	Planet
FirstNet Services	(0113) 294 4224	sales@firstnet.co.uk	www.firstnet.co.uk	£12.50	Energis
Foobar Internet	(0116) 233 0033	sales@foobar.co.uk	www.foobar.co.uk	£10	Netkonect
Frontier Internet Services	(0171) 713 1941	info@ftech.net	www.ftech.net	£10	Pipex & Xara
Global Internet	(0181) 957 1008	info@globalnet.co.uk	www.globalnet.co.uk	£7.50	BT & Sprint
GreenNet	(0171) 713 1941	support@gn.apc.org	www.gn.apc.org	£13.50	Pipex
Hiway	(01635) 550 660	info@inform.hiway.co.uk	www.hiyway.co.uk	£15	Pipex
IBM Global Network	(0800) 973 000	internet_europe@ie.ibm.com	www.ibm.com	£10	IBM
Internet Discovery	(0181) 694 2240	invent@idiscover.co.uk	www.idiscover.co.uk	£10	Pipex
Internet Express	(01604) 670 500	marketing@netxpress.co.uk	www.netxpress.co.uk	£15	Pipex
Internexus Communications	(01254) 699 030	postmaster@mail.internexus.co.uk	www.internexus.co.uk	£59.99/ yr	Xara
Intonet	(01932) 828 333	info@intonet.co.uk	www.intonet.co.uk	£8.50	BT
Ke-Connect Internet Services	(01449) 770 488	info@keme.net	www.keme.net	£10	Netkonect
M.I.T.E	(0181) 881 2111	sales@mite.net	www.mite.net	£10	M.I.T.E
Macline	(0181) 401 111	orders@macline.co.uk	www.macline.co.uk	£12	Atlas
NashMedia	(01703) 452 409	info@nashmedia.com	www.nashmedia.com	£15	Pipex
Net Online	(0171) 447 7447	sales@n-e-t.co.uk	www.n-e-t.co.uk	£15	Net Online
Netcom Internet	(01334) 395 600	info@netcomuk.co.uk	www.netcom.net.uk	£12.95	Netcom
NetDirect Internet	(0171) 732 3000	info@ndirect.co.uk	www.ndirect.co.uk	£6.99	BT
Netforce Group	(01245) 257 788	sales@netforce.net	www.netforce.net	£15	Pipex
NetHead	(0171) 207 1100	sales@nethead.co.uk	www.nethead.co.uk	£7.99	BT
Netkonect	(0171) 345 7777	info@netkonect.net	www.netkonect.net	£10	Netkonect
NetMatters	(01502) 585 866	info@netmatters.co.uk	www.netmatters.co.uk	£10	BT
NetTec	(0171) 460 0500	info@nettec.co.uk	www.nettec.co.uk	£12.50	Xara
Neural Advantage	(01707) 390 839	neural.advantage@wta.net	www.wta.net/uk/computer.services/neural.advantage	£10-25	Netkonect
North-West Net	(0161) 950 777	sales@nwnet.co.uk	www.nwnet.co.uk/home.htm	£10	PSInet
On-Line Entertainment	(0181) 558 6114	sysop@mail.on-line.co.uk	www.on-line.co.uk	£5	Pipex & PSInet
Onyx	(0345) 715 715	sales@onyxnet.co.uk	www.onyxnet.co.uk	£10	Pipex
Paragon Software	(01635) 861 111	paragon@parasoft.co.uk	www.parasoft.co.uk	£11.50	Pipex
Paston Chase	(01603) 502 061	sales@paston.co.uk	www.paston.co.uk	£10	Pipex
PC User Group	(0181) 863 1191	info@win-uk.net	www.ibmpcug.co.uk	£15	Pipex
Pinnacle Internet	(01293) 613 686	info@pncl.co.uk	www.pncl.co.uk	£14.50	Pipex
Planet Internet	(0171) 345 4000	info@uk.pi.net	www.uk.pi.net	£7.99	BT
Planet Online	(0113) 234 5566	info@theplanet.net	www.theplanet.net	£100 ISDN	Planet Online
Prestel On-Line	(0990) 233 300	enquiry@netsales.prestel.co.uk	www.prestel.co.uk	£8.99	Planet Online
Primex	(01908) 643 597	info@alpha.primex.co.uk	www.primex.co.uk	from £10	Sprint
PSI Net UK	(01223) 577 577	sales@uk.psi.com	www.uk.psi.com	£9.95	PSInet
R.B.R Group	(01285) 647 000	info@star.co.uk	www.star.co.uk	£12	BT & INSnet
RedNet	(01494) 513 333	info@red.net	www.rednet.co.uk	£15	Pipex
Research Machines	(01235) 826 868	sales@rmplc.co.uk	www.rmplc.co.uk	£10	NA
Scotland Online	(0845) 270 0027	admin@sol.co.uk	www.soctland.uk	£10	Sprint
Sonnet Internet	(0181) 664 6000	enquire@sonnet.co.uk	www.sonnet.co.uk	£12.50	Xara
TExNET	(0705) 0555 555	texnet@texis.net	www.texis.net	£2	BTnet
The Legend Internet	(01274) 743 5000	sales@legend.co.uk	www.legend.co.uk	£12.50	Sprint
The Web Factory	(01782) 858 585	sales@webfactory.co.uk	www.webfactory.co.uk	£12.50	The Web Factory
Total Connectivity Providers	(01703) 393 392	sales@tcp.co.uk	www.tcp.co.uk	from £36 per quarter	Pipex
U-Net	(01925) 633 144	hi@u-net.com	www.u-net.com	£12	U-Net
UK Online	(01749) 333 333	sales@ukonline.co.uk	www.ukonline.co.uk	£9.99	BT
UUnet Pipex	(01223) 250 100	sales@UUnet.pipex.com	www.uunet.pipex.com	£15	Pipex
WinNet	(0181) 863 1191	info@win-uk.net	www.win-uk.net	£6.75	Pipex
Wirenet Anglia (for Amigas)	(01925) 791 716	sales@wirenet.u-net.com	www.u-net.com/~wirenet	£115/ year	U-Net

NAME	CONTACT NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS	WEB SITE	CHARGE PER MONTH	BACKBONE PROVIDER
WorldScope	(01734) 521 000	info@worldscope.net	www.worldscope.net	£10	Xara
Xara Networks	(01442) 351 100	sales@xara.net	www.xara.net		Xara
Zetnet Services	(01595) 696 667	info@zetnet.co.uk	www.zetnet.co.uk	£7.50	BT
Zoo	(0345) 326 326	support@zoo.co.uk	www.zoo.co.uk	£12.34	Energis
Zynet	(01392) 209 500	sales@zynet.net	www.zynet.co.uk	£10	Xara
EAST					
FlexNet	(01638) 711550	sales@flexnet.net	www.flexnet.co.uk	£10	Xara
Merlin Internet	(01724) 276 860	info@merlin.net.uk	www.merlin.net.uk	£15	Hypergrid
Poptel	(0171) 923 9465	info@poptel.net	www.poptel.org.uk	£10	PSInet
IRELAND					
Direct Net Access	(01232) 330 311	info@dnet.co.uk	www.dnet.co.uk	£10	NetCom UK
Emerald Internet Services	(01232) 311 022	info@emeraldni.co.uk	www.emeraldni.co.uk	£15	Hypergrid
Genesis Project	(01232) 560 552	sales@gpl.net	www.gpl.net	£10	VBC net
Ireland On-Line	00 353 1855 1739	sales@iol.ie	www.iol.ie	£10	Pipex
Unite Solutions	(01232) 668 406	solutions@unite.co.uk	www.unite.co.uk	£12.50	BT
LONDON & SOUTH EAST					
@pobox.co.uk	(0990) 168 160	info@pobox	www.pobox.co.uk	£10	INSnet
Amity Internet	(0500) 200 171	info@amity.co.uk	www.amity.co.uk	£10	BT
Anglianet	(01473) 211 922	sales@anglianet.co.uk	www.anglianet.co.uk/anglianet	£10	BT
Bogomip	(0800) 137 536	info@mail.bogo.co.uk	www.bogo.co.uk.www	£12	PSInet
BusinessNet	(01252) 318 707	sales@businessnet.co.uk	www.businessnet.co.uk	£100 ISDN	C&W
CableNet	(01424) 830 700	info@cablenet.net	www.cablenet/cablenet	£14.75	VBCnet
FastNet International	(01273) 677 633	info@fastnet.co.uk	www.fastnet.co.uk	£30/quarter	VBCnet
Garden CityNet	(01462) 485 624	info@gardencitynet.co.uk	www.gardencitynet.co.uk	£15	Netkonect
I-Way	(0118) 958 0058	sales@i-way.co.uk	www.i-way.co.uk	£30 per quarter	VBC Net/Pipex
KENTnet Internet Services	(01580) 890 089	sales@kentnet.co.uk	www.kentnet.co.uk	£15	BT
Lunatech Research	(0118) 979 1900	info@luna.co.uk	www.luna.co.uk	£40 per quarter	Cable Internet
Mistral Internet	(01273) 747 432	info@minstral.co.uk	www.mistral.co.uk	£9.99	BT
Moose	(01923) 238 248	info@moose.co.uk	www.moose.co.uk	£10	BT
Pavnet Internet Services	(01273) 834 000	sales@pavnet.co.uk	www.pavnet.co.uk	£50	N/A
Pro-Net Internet Services	(0181) 200 3565	sales@pro-net.co.uk	www.pro-net.co.uk	£99/ year	I.S.P.C
Surrey Internet	(01483) 860 606	office@surrey-net.co.uk	www.surrey-net.co.uk	£12.50	Surrey Internet
Technocom	(01753) 714 200	sales@technocom.co.uk	www.technocom.co.uk	£5	Technocom
Thames Global Internet	(01344) 305 627	info@tgis.co.uk	www.tgis.co.uk	£10	I.S.P.C
The Channel	(0181) 964 0066	info@channel.co.uk	www.channel.co.uk	£150/ year	Netkonect
The Web Factory	(01344) 305 222	sales@webtv.co.uk	www.webtv.co.uk	£12.50	The Web Factory
VossNet	(01753) 737 800	info@vossnet.co.uk	www.vossnet.co.uk	£10	ISPC
MIDLANDS					
Brunel Internet	(01922) 598090	sales@brunel.co.uk	www.brunel.co.uk/brunel.html	£12.50	BT
Darian Technologies	(0121) 693 5606	darian@custard.co.uk	www.custard.co.uk	£50	I.S.P.C
Discover	(01203) 364 400	invent@dicover.co.uk	www.discover.co.uk	£10	Technocom
Fenetre	(01538) 398 298	sales@fentre.co.uk	www.fentre.co.uk	£8	N/A
GMTnet	(01509) 265 555	sales@gmtnet.co.uk	www.gmtnet.co.uk	£10	BT
Pipemedia	(01455) 292 990	sales@pipemedia.net	www.pipemedia.net	£10	VBCnet
Power Internet	(01908) 503 126	info@powernet.co.uk	www.powernet.co.uk	£12	BT
Skynet Internet Services	(01604) 452 245	sales@skynet.co.uk	www.skynet.co.uk	£10	ISPC

NAME	CONTACT NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS	WEB SITE	CHARGE PER MONTH	BACKBONE PROVIDER
The Internet in Nottingham	(0115) 956 222	info@innotts.co.uk	www.innotts.co.uk	£14.69	Aladdin
The Web Factory (Leicester)	(0116) 223 0070	sales@webleicester.co.uk	www.webleicester.co.uk	£12.50	The Web Factory
Wave Rider Internet	(01564) 795 888	info@waverider.co.uk	www.waverider.co.uk	£12	VBCnet
Woden Network Systems	(0121) 530 4900	derek@woden.com	www.woden.com	£10	VBCnet
NORTH WEST					
Cybase	(0151) 227 4244	sales@mail.cybase.co.uk	www.cybase.co.uk	£10	Cable Internet
Freeway Internet	(01204) 431 313	sales@freeway.co.uk	www.freeway.co.uk	£139.95 per year	VBCnet
Internet Central	(01270) 611 000	sales@netcentral.co.uk	www.netcentral.co.uk	£10	Xara
Talk 101	(01925) 245 145	sales@mail.talk-101.com	www.talk-101.com	£10	Wisper
UK Internet Provider	(01772) 252 525	internet@provider.co.uk	www.provider.co.uk	£12	ISPC
Zen Internet	(01706) 713 714	sales@zen.co.uk	www.zen.co.uk	£10	BT
SCOTLAND					
Colloquium	(0141) 849 0849	smith_j@cqm.co.uk	www.colloquium.co.uk/	£12	Pipex
ednet	(0131) 466 7003	info@ednet.co.uk	www.ednet.co.uk	£10	BT
Foremost Training	(0141) 566 6377	sales@scotnet.co.uk	www.scotnet.co.uk	£10	Foremost Training
TweedNet	(01573) 430 216	mike@scotborders.co.uk	www.calligrafix.co.uk	£12	Scottish Telecom
Wintermute	(01224) 595 111	info@wintermute.co.uk	www.wintermute.co.uk	£12.50	Pipex
SOUTH CENTRAL					
Andover On-Line	(01624) 334 822	info@andover.co.uk	www.andover.co.uk	£12	Xara
Athene Internet	(01329) 828 000	jdyer@athene.co.uk	www.athene.co.uk	£10	Pipex
Bournemouth Internet	(01202) 292 900	office@bournemouth-net.co.uk	www.bournemouth-net.co.uk	£15	Xara
Manx Computer Bureau	(01624) 623 841	postmaster@mcb.net	www.mcb.net	£8	BT
NewNet	(01705) 647 400	sales@newnet.co.uk	www.newnet.co.uk	£5.88	BT
SOUTH WEST					
Abling.Co.UK	(01823) 353 771	info@abling.co.uk	www.abling.co.uk	£9.95	INSnet
Aspen Internet	(01672) 511 388	admin@aspen-internet.net	www.aspen-internet.uk	£12	Aspen Internet
City Netgates	(0117) 907 4000	info@netgates.co.uk	www.netgates.co.uk	from £9.79	Technocom
Dorset Internet	(01202) 659 991	sales@ids.co.uk	www.ids.co.uk	£14.99	BT, Pipex
Eclipse Networking	(01392) 424 440	eclipse@eclipse.co.uk	www.eclipse.co.uk	£8	PSInet
Epinet	(01242) 821 000	sales@epinet.co.uk	www.epinet.co.uk	£12.50	Infonet
LDS Technology	(01202) 659 991	sales@lds.co.uk	www.lds.co.uk	£14.99	BT
Nildram	(01442) 891 331	sales@nildram.co.uk	www.nildram.co.uk	£5	Netkonect
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Next Month

As the launch issue comes to a close, our thoughts are already turning to the box of Net delights we have in store for you next month...

Next time in Total Internet...

Web Weaver

The magazine within a magazine is launched with a guide to ShockWave, Macromedia's exciting multimedia delivery technology for the Web. There will also be a look at what we think are the 20 best Web design information sites on offer. We'll be de-mystifying the creation of animated GIFs, looking at the differences between Web browsers and showing you how to design your sites for 'compatibility'. Phew!

Sound Advice

A special report about the use of sound on the Net. We look at an area that is very much the poor relation when it comes to multimedia on the Net, including MIDI, Webphones, sound formats, backing music and much more.

WebTV

As television and the Web begin to merge what will the future hold for both media? We analyse television resources, TV companies online, video on the Net and much more.

CyberEssentials

Yet more high-tech gadgets and gizmos, as well as a few ideas from the lighter side of life, for spicing up your Net experience. Look out for a massive competition.

Britain's Biggest Guide

It's back, it's big and it's better than ever. More sites reviewed and rated than you can shake a very big stick at.

The **January** issue of **Total Internet** will be available from all good newsagents on **27th December – Don't miss it!**

TOTAL internet

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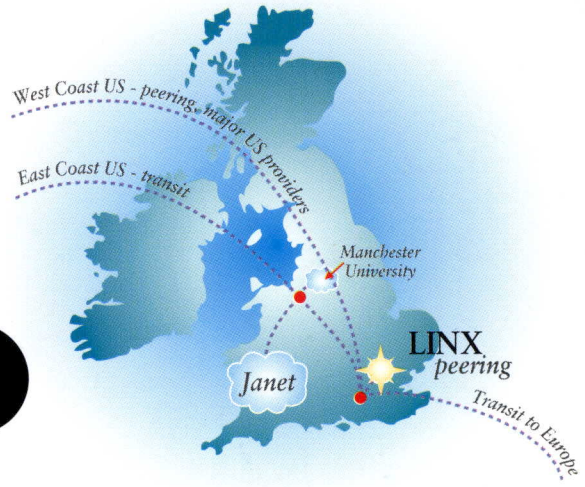

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